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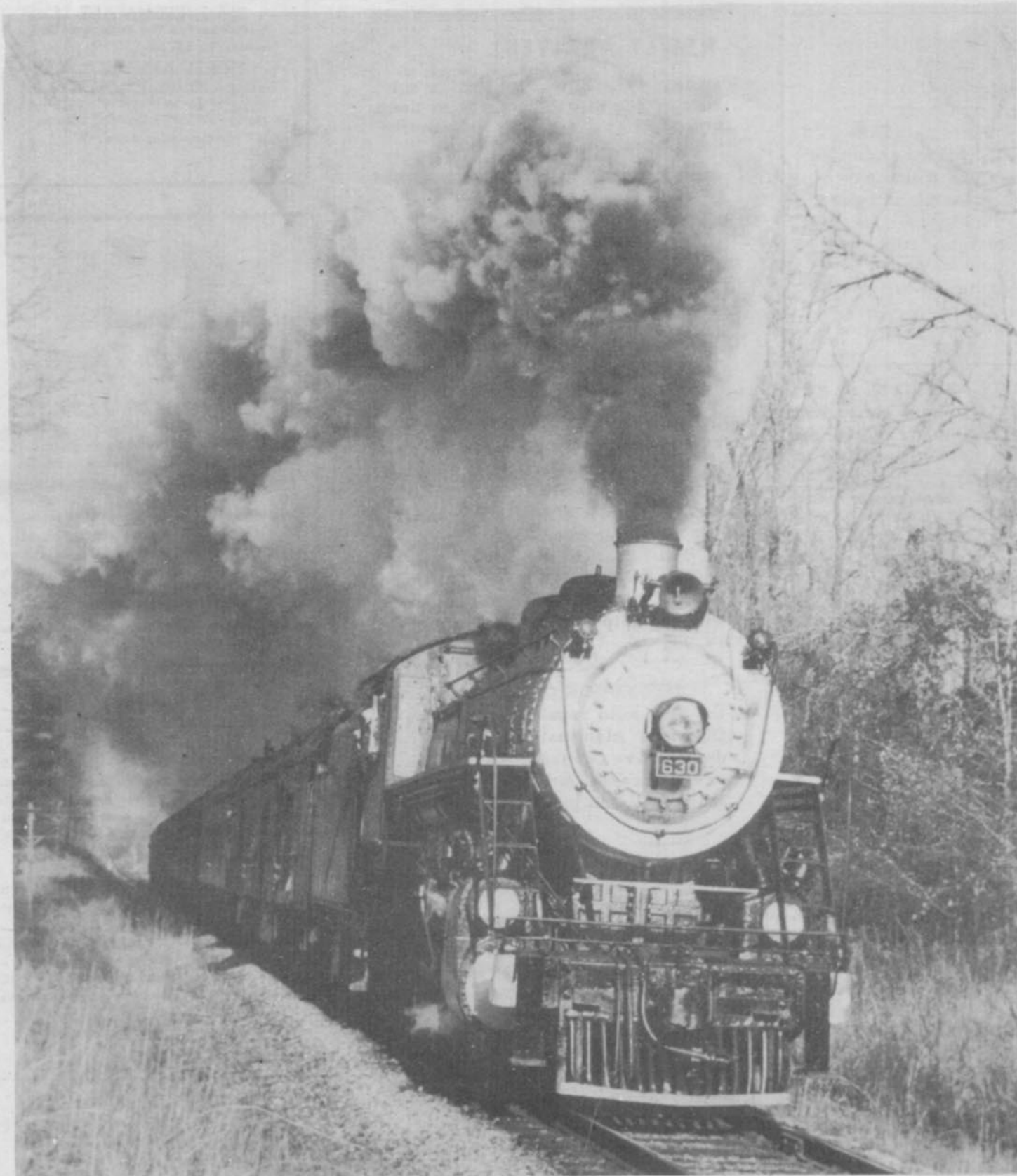
# DC Gazette

VOL VIII NR 3

MARCH 1977

BOOK  
CATALOG  
P.2

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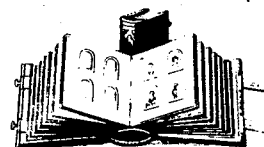
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## THE EASTERN SHORE

Steve Szabo

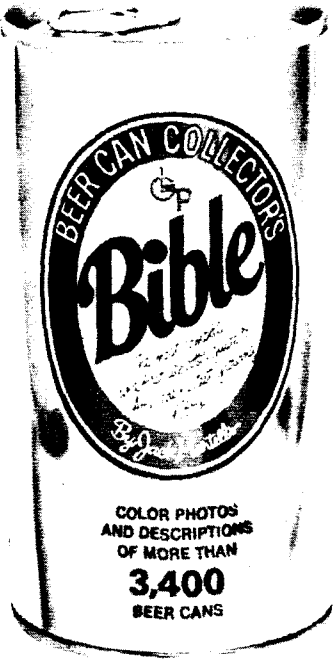
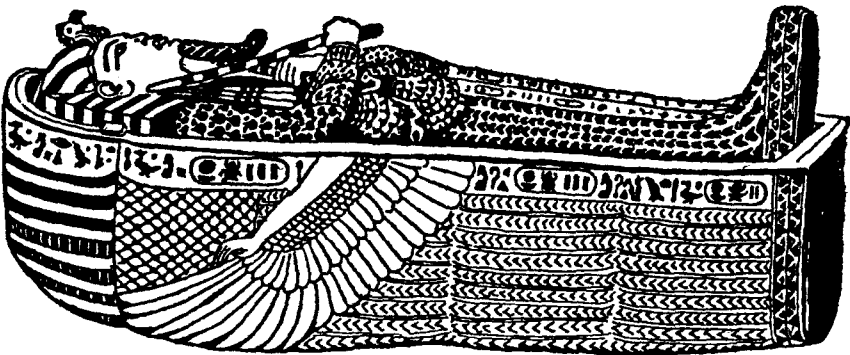
Photojournalist Steve Szabo has filmed this moving tribute to an extinct community and lifestyle. His photographs and vignettes capture with amazing candidness the desolation and emptiness of a town deserted. A formidable and handsomely published book that would make a fine addition to any photographic collection.  
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## GREATLAKES LIVING PRESS

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Larry Wright, Editor

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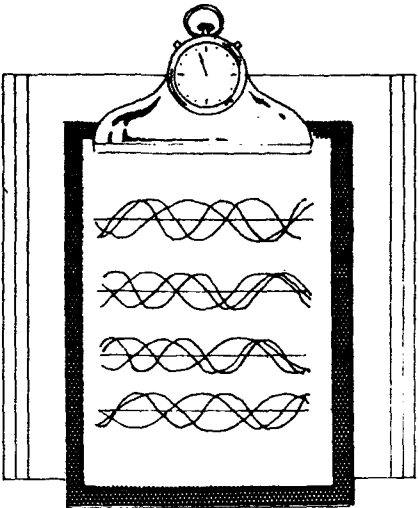
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Based on the theory that the natural rhythms of our bodies help determine our behavior and responses, Dr. Smith has compiled a formulated method for self-knowledge. Included are easy-to-use biorhythm tables designed to help you discover your life cycle's ups and downs, and your compatibility with others.  
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**SUCCESSFUL GARDENING IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON AREA.** We're not into gardening but we're told that this book is an excellent companion book to the Star guide. Prepared by the Men's Gardening Club of Montgomery County. \$2.00

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## Books for Kids

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Judith Adell/Hilary Dole Klein, introduction by Alan Alda  
This guide includes books for toddlers to teenagers with a brief description of each title. "Stories for children are like dreams that we share with our kids. And since dreams can be rehearsals for reality, it's important what roles they find to play in those stories."  
150 pages, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, \$3.95 perfectbound

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# letters, comment & alarms

## What's a conspiracy?

WILLIAM Greider's front page Post article on the "Trilateralist conspiracy" on the Carter foreign policy establishment, though well-researched and factual, misses the point by tossing around the spectre of conspiracy. The tone of the article conjures up visions of freemasons and rosigrucians and "dark theories." Greider sets up the straw man of "conspiracy" and then proceeds in the body of the article to knock down his own creation.

The question must be asked: what constitutes a conspiracy? Is an academic clique a conspiracy? Are members of the Rotary Club or a country club co-conspirators? Certainly, friendships and professional and business contacts result from these groupings: and when people are in a position to help others, they obviously remember those who have helped them and those they already know and trust. Is a bankers' convention a conspiracy? Or a family gathering of the Rockefeller Brothers? Clearly not.

The point is: conspiracies by people with power — conspiracies to benefit from downtown development and insider tips, conspiracies to influence public policy both domestic and foreign, conspiracies to shape public opinion — are not considered conspiracies. They are connections, friendships, social acquaintances, partnerships. The term "conspiracy," as used in common parlance, refers only to the social and professional ties of those without power trying to gain or exert power. The efforts of those with power to retain or expand that clout is not considered conspiratorial. David Rockefeller is not a conspirator; he is merely "influential." Thus, whether or not we call the Trilateral Commission a conspiracy is beside the point. What is clear is that all these men are members of the same club: intelligent, serious men who are defenders of privilege, of the prerogatives of the multinational corporations, of decision-making by a small elite group whose members, though not at all homogeneous in their specific plans and beliefs, share similar values and, by and large, similar social rank and connections.

RICHARD KAZIS  
Adams Morgan, DC

## Initiative & referendum

THE only means through which the people of the District of Columbia can participate directly in their government is through the initiative and referendum process. I have introduced an "Initiative and Referendum Amendment Act of 1977." Under the bill, a voter approved initiative or referendum measure now becomes the equivalent to an act passed by the council and signed by the mayor. Support for this bill has been voiced by a number of groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the DC Federation of Civic Associations, DC Public Interest Group, the Washington Teachers Union, DC Power, and the Upper Northeast Coordinating Council.

The initiative portion of this bill would allow citizens to draft legislation and place such legislation on the ballot for approval or disapproval. If approved by the electorate, the initiative measure would then be referred to Congress as an act in the same manner as legislation passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor. The essential elements of the bill's initiative provisions closely parallel those of California, Oregon, and Washington. Specifically the bill requires that:

- Any initiative measure which is to be proposed must be presented to the Board of Elections and Ethics, accompanied by a petition that sets forth the text of the proposed legislation.
- The initiative petition must be signed by at least 5% of the qualified voters in the District of Columbia who voted for mayor at the last mayoral election.
- Upon qualification, the initiated measure would be placed on the ballot without alteration for consideration at the next general election.
- The City Council may amend or repeal an initiated act which has become law by another act provided such an act has been placed before the voters and has received an affirmative vote.

The referendum provisions of the bill would enable citizens to place legislation that has been passed by the city council, signed by the mayor and has become law on the ballot for approval or disapproval. If a majority votes to reject the legislation such legislation shall become null and void. The basic elements of the referendum portion of the bill also closely parallel those of California, Oregon and Washington. The bill provides that:

- Any referendum measure which is to be submitted to the voters must be presented to the Board of Elections and Ethics and filed within 90 days after that measure has taken effect. (ie after an act has been passed by the Council, signed by the Mayor and has become law.)

- The referendum petition must be signed by at least 5% of the qualified voters of the District of Columbia who voted for mayor at the last mayoral election.

- The referendum petition must qualify at least 30 days before the next general election if it is to be considered at that election.

- Emergency acts, laws calling for elections, and laws providing for tax levies or appropriations for the operating budget of the District of Columbia are not subject to a referendum vote.

- Legislation reaffirmed (approved) by a majority of votes shall take effect 30 days after the election.

The idea of initiative and referendum in the United States developed at the turn of the century as an outgrowth of the Progressive reform movement. The Progressives saw the power of initiative and referendum as a tool for the people to take direct action and therefore bypass the traditional, and often cumbersome, legislative process and executive veto.

More recently this theme has repeated itself, particularly in the post-Watergate atmosphere. Recent public opinion polls suggest that the public has become increasingly suspicious of the traditional political process with what they perceive as its special interests, highly paid lobbyists, and unresponsive public officials and favor reforms in the political system which would give them a final check. The initiative and referendum are means to this end.

South Dakota was the first state to adopt initiative and referendum provisions and make them a part of its constitution in 1898. Since that time 21 other states have adopted both the initiative and referendum as amendments to their constitutions. California has made the greatest use of its initiative and referendum provisions. Since their adoption in 1911, 202 measures have been placed before the voters of California through the initiative process. Of these 202 measures, 44 have been adopted. As recently as 1974 the voters in that state approved Proposition 9, the Political Reform Initiative concerning financial disclosures and limitations affecting political campaigns. This past year the initiative process was successfully used to qualify a nuclear safeguards ballot proposition which was presented to the California voters in June 1976. Similar nuclear safeguard propositions were also qualified for the November 1976 elections in Montana, Colorado, Arizona, Oregon, Washington and Ohio.

During the most recent general elections citizens of a number of states made use of the initiative process on a variety of issues. A utility consumers initiative qualified and was approved by the voters of Colorado. In Michigan citizens approved a "bottle bill" initiative. In Massachusetts the voters placed a utility life line initiative, a "bottle bill" initiative, and a gun control initiative on the ballot.

In the District of Columbia the initiative and referendum provisions of the proposed charter amendment would supplement the present legislative process and allow the electorate to voice directly its sentiments and make that sentiment public policy.

The experience in California, as well as in Oregon, Washington and Colorado, indicate that their citizens have used the initiative and referendum in a responsible and intelligent manner, and its use has become a routine part of the legislative process in those states. I believe that if there is to be true self government in the District, then its citizens must have the tools to participate directly in the legislative process. The initiative and referendum are such tools for self government.

JULIUS HOBSON  
Councilmember


WE are writing to express our total outrage at the Council's appointments to the Legislative Commission on Housing. This nine-member commission established by council resolution, is to "conduct a comprehensive study of the housing situation in the District and to formulate and propose such changes and directions as the Commission may deem appropriate." And yet the council did not see fit to appoint even one community representative to serve on this potentially powerful policy-formulating body.

Besides the five DC government representatives, two councilmembers and three of the mayor's cabinet members, the Commission is composed entirely of landlords, a banker and a lawyer. Not even one of thirteen councilmembers voted in opposition to Sterling Tucker's choice of (1) Irv Kriegsfelt, President of Management Partnership, Inc. and Vice-President of the Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA), (2) Thornton Owen, Chairman of the Board, Perpetual Federal Savings and Loan Association and (3) Marjorie McGowan, attorney advisor, HUD. John Thompson of Vijon Realty, appointed by the mayor, is the second landlord and the fourth of the non-government appointees.

The City Wide Housing Coalition calls for the halting of all work of this sham commission until at least four community representatives have been appointed as members of the commission to help shape the District's housing policies which are to effect our lives, for years to come.

EVALYN ONWUACHI, Chairperson, Citywide Housing Coalition  
KATHY GANNETT, Vice-Chairperson

We welcome letters and comment on any matter that would be of interest to our readers. Items less than one page double-spaced stand the best chance of being published. Send to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.



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Community Notice ————— Community Notice

## Far SE Pennsylvania Ave. Corridor Notes

By James H. Hannaham, Commissioner, ANC 7B

### MEALS ON WHEELS

The Hillcrest Area Meals on Wheels Association, Inc. recently held its third annual meeting to report on and assess the future prospects of this important volunteer feeding program for Senior Citizens.

AFGE Local 2782 at the Census Bureau has assumed responsibility for providing both volunteers and volunteer coordination for routes in the Naylor Gardens and Suitland areas. Hillcrest Meals on Wheels has terminated dependence on caterer services and now assumes full responsibility for staffing the kitchen and stocking food. This is possible because of the excellent kitchen facilities provided by the East Washington Baptist Church. The real sources of the programs strength and stability have come from the efforts of many individuals in the community who have volunteered their services and the contributions from local civic organizations and churches.

Looking ahead, Meals on wheels will begin seeking public funds and foundation grants to extend services to the elderly through the support of paid staff. In addition, efforts will be made to establish a Community Council to coordinate services, provide information and referral and to make a comprehensive assessment of needs and services for Senior Citizens in the community.

The magnitude and scope of this magnificent volunteer program by the Hillcrest Area Meals on Wheels Association for the benefit of our Senior neighbors and friends is best illustrated in the following statistical summary:

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1976</u>
Sets of Meals delivered	5,200	3,627	6,493
Recipients served	71	41	48
Volunteers	97	106	190
Trips	990	730	1,102

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## Land value taxation

WE choose our residence, our place and type of work, our expenditures, all within a complex framework of tax incentives and disincentives. One of the most powerful of these conditioners is the real property tax which produces some 19% of DC's annual revenues.

As presently constituted, it is a dual tax — land and buildings are assessed separately, then a single rate is applied to the combined value. Consider some of the effects under this system:

In outlying areas, the assessor comes out and determines that in a certain residential block the land is worth, say, \$1.00 per square foot (this is then adjusted slightly for corner locations, etc.). Then he looks at the houses and the more it adds to the neighborhood, the higher the value the assessor puts down and the larger the tax burden that owner will carry. The investment in improvement is penalized.

Nearer in, look at the case of a house on 9th Street, NE which was purchased in 1973 to rehab for rental. It was then assessed at a market value of \$24,400. The mirror-image house next door was equally assessed. In 1974, both properties were reassessed to \$45,000 because of appreciation in neighborhood values. The house next door is still \$45,000 but the rehabilitated house is now assessed at \$77,400. Over the three year period the land value was raised by 60%, the building value by 350%. That portion of monthly rent going to cover the property tax has risen from \$37 to \$118. Both rehab and rental have been penalized.

In old commercial and industrial areas like the eastern part of Downtown, land values are high and turnover is slow. The history of a lot at the corner of 9th and G NW, indicates why that is so. The lot was the site of an old office building which accommodated a number of small business — bike shop, bookbinders, Velatis caramels etc. — paying low rents and flourishing. In 1972 Martin Luther King Library was built across the street and the old office building was bought by our parking tycoon who tore it down. He bought a site value on which he pays about \$20,000 tax per year. His improvements have consisted of little more than some asphalt and a shack. Why should he develop? Public investment in the new library and METRO are vastly enhancing his site value. The cost of holding the property — the \$20,000 annual tax — is offset by parking revenues and capital appreciation. If he invested in development of the \$6 million office building that corner might hold, his property tax would increase by \$109,800 on the value of the building plus any increase due to appreciation of the site. Thus the present tax structure provides him an incentive to demolish the old and a disincentive to develop the new. It accommodates the speculator and penalizes development.

Proponents of land (or site) value taxation would remove the tax from buildings (improvements) and place the full burden of raising the required property tax revenues on the value of the land on which those improvements rest. This shift should reverse the present situation where there is an incentive to hold property speculatively because the tax-cost of holding it is so low, while penalizing improvement by increasing the tax bill when it occurs.

The District could raise the current level of property tax revenues from land values alone by taxing every property's land at 4.5% of value. A computer study by the DC Department of Finance and Revenue has shown that, in general, this would reduce the tax burden for residential properties, particularly apartment houses, and raise it for commercial, particularly for low-density, old properties, on high-value land. The tax on unimproved sites — land held vacant or used for parking or storage — would go up the most, by 145%.

The eastern part of downtown would benefit to the extent that its vacant high-valued parcels were forced onto the market, bringing land prices down and encouraging development. The rest of the city would benefit to the degree that high-density development on the valuable land of western downtown shouldered a larger share of the tax burden. Thus the tax burden should fall considerably in outlying areas such as Deanwood, Anacostia, Congress Heights, Brookland, Brightwood and Shepherd Park.

The well-to-do homeowners of Georgetown and Capitol Hill occupy high-value land with their low-density town-houses. They could expect higher taxes on their privileged in-town location. An in-town low-density neighborhood such as Chinatown could be protected from the tax pressure for higher density development by the government decreeing that its properties were to be valued at current rather than potential use value. This technique has been used to protect in-town residential neighborhoods in Sydney, Australia which has a land-value tax.

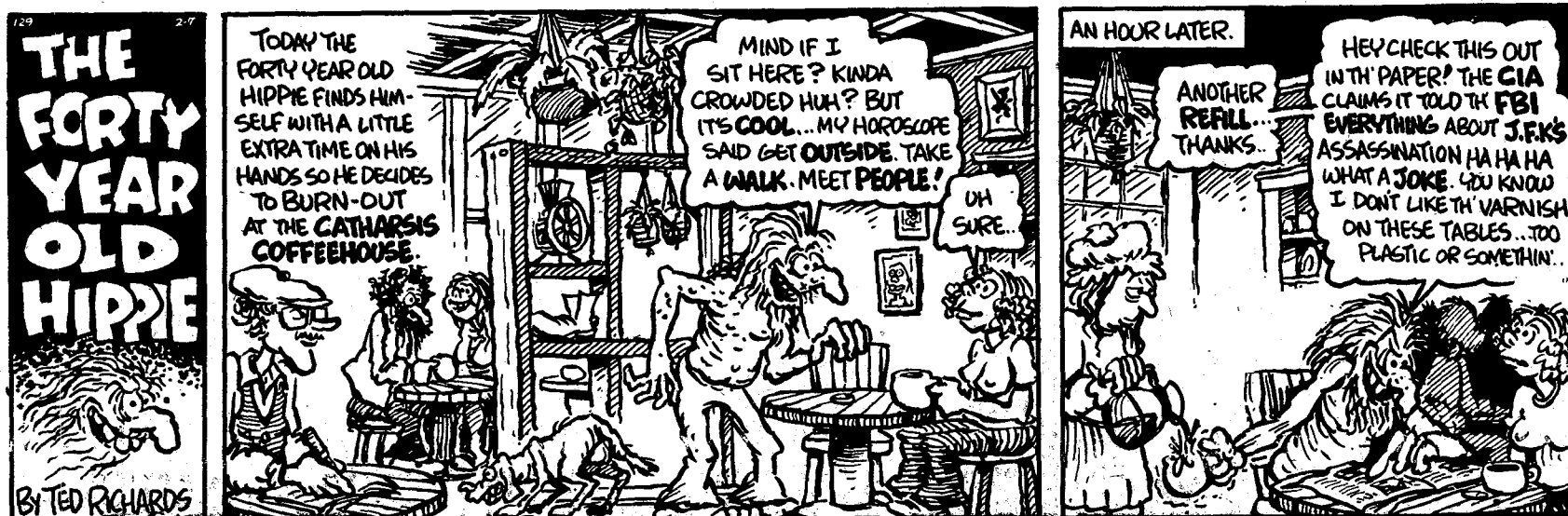
Admittedly, there are commercial activities in the downtown area for which land-value taxation would mean burdensome tax increases — any which seriously underutilize that high value land or which by their nature require large horizontal footage. The most blatant examples of the former are unimproved parking lots. Land at the corner of 13th and E, NW, which according to the 1976 assessment was worth \$85 a square foot, is being used for surface parking. This is a convenient way to finance land speculation but a grossly uneconomic use of the site.

Other sufferers would be those small retail establishments with relatively low dollar sales per square foot which survive as the tenants of the old 3 to 6 - story buildings downtown. For example, of five small shoe and clothing stores on F Street between 9th and 12th, NW the tax increases would average 134%. Such an increase might well cause owners to sell or redevelop. Space users such as furniture and hardware stores and gas stations would also pick up more of the tax burden. So the city has a choice: it can protect these users of high-value land by adjusting their assessments or it can give study to imaginative zoning, building code and permit combinations which would provide for alternative locations.

No one is sure how strong the development impact of land value taxation would be because the property tax is only one of the determinants in investment decisions. If it should be as strong as some of its adherents think, it could suck new development in from the Beltway and force the suburban jurisdictions to also lift the tax off improvements. It could generate construction and rehab jobs on a large scale, provide new housing, increase the taxbase and revive and diversify the District's economy. Some would be advantaged, some disadvantaged — this happens with any tax reform, and makes it very difficult to achieve. Lower-income people would not be able to live adjacent to Downtown unless given subsidies or special tax treatment, true. The inner city would be more densely developed, true. But those who do not want density around Metro stops and downtown should explain how otherwise they intend to provide the jobs and income and housing units needed in this land-locked city.

— MARGARET REUSS

Unfortunately, in the name of dealing with some problems in the city such as undeveloped land (parking lots etc.), land value taxation would make a lot of other problems worse. Low and moderate rent office space in downtown or near downtown locations would be wiped out by it, buildings not built to the height allowed by zoning would be demolished, human sized row buildings would be replaced by highrise people pens and non-wealthy homeowners in places like Capitol Hill would be forced out by higher taxes. The damage land value taxation would do to the city far exceeds any good it might accomplish. Besides what would be accomplished under existing zoning, there would be speculative increases in land values in places where developers thought the zoning could be changed. Then the developers would go to the city, as they did in the West End, and demand that the zoning be changed to protect their speculative profits. Another reason to oppose land value taxation is that it goes in exactly the opposite direction from which wealth taxation reform should be heading. The problem with wealth taxation generally is that property is overtaxed and other forms of wealth, such as stocks and bonds, are undertaxed or not taxed at all. By skewing property taxation towards land values, one merely makes the unfairness of wealth taxation worse—ED.





# OUTSIDE WASHINGTON

## AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES

I HAVE before me a Washington Star story torn from the top of the front page of one of last month's issues. The banner reads: "Here's Your Chance to Help Carter Get Closer to the People."

The story begins:

"The Washington Star wants to help President Carter. We're sure you do, too. Mr. Carter feels that it is 'unhealthy' for the nation's leaders to be isolated, walled off from the people. He says he wants to keep in touch, to find out what we're thinking about. . . ." The Star offered to receive our thoughts.

Okay. One of the things this people has been thinking about is why a "people's president" feel the right and necessity to hog so much of the political attention of the nation. There are, after all, two other branches of the federal government, fifty state governments and thousands of city, township and village governments, not to mention countless school districts, water and sewer commissions and port authorities.

Jimmy Carter seems no less inclined than any of his recent predecessors to share the spotlight. A true indicator of a people's president, I should think, would be a cultivated obscurity calculated to permit the other nodes of political power to rise in influence and visibility, thus reminding us that we got together not to form a more perfect corporation but a more perfect union. But Carter seems to lack the modesty necessary to end the usurpation of democracy by the presidency. He intends, he says, to turn the government back to the people, but it is also clear that when it goes he's going with it.

The media is Carter's most important ally in this tricky business of giving the people power while not giving up any of his own. After years of presidents sneaking around in the dark (or, most recently, fumbling around in the light) the arrival of a president who seems both competent and accessible is the media's dream. It has lost no time signing aboard the Carter administration, including Walter Cronkite who signed up with the White House press office as a volunteer handling some of the president's casework via a national question and answer session.

But the media's obsequious attitude towards Carter and its glorification of his person and family is really not much different than previous encounters between the press and a new president. The press hates complexity and shared power is extraordinarily complex. By keeping the focus on the person in the White House it does not have to concern itself with such troublesome questions as whatever happened to the other branches of the federal government or the degree to which a president

## Good News Dept.

HIZONER is complaining again about the lack of good news in the press, so we went out looking for some and came up with the cheering information that if you are tired of Joe Yeldell and Norvell Perkins and Dominic Antonelli you can escape via the steam train pictured on this month's cover. Excursion trips leave Alexandria for Charlottesville or Front Royal on March 26-27 and April 2-3. Info: 534-1100. . . Our second piece of good news is featured at right and concerns our mayor himself. According to Lord & Taylor's PR department this is what Walter has on Sundays. Now, where were we?

. . .

Bennetta Washington  
Sunday Family Dinner

Crab Bisque

Rock Cornish Hen

Wild Rice with Mushrooms

Asparagus Spears

Glazed Carrots

Mixed Green Salad

Baked Alaska

is the creature rather than the creator of events around him. The press, by near unanimous consent, decided long ago that presidency was the only game in town, absent an occasional Supreme Court decision or one of those anarchistic riots on Capitol Hill.

Naturally, with nearly everyone writing about Washington agreeing on this, it has increasingly become so. Members of Congress, now well conditioned to consider themselves the orphans of the federal system, generally act with a self-effacement toward the president that, in their eyes, lends dignity to their roles. The price, however, is impotence.

One of the reasons for having a legislature at all is to make things happen that wouldn't if you had to rely upon the executive. Executive branches of government have visions severely constrained by all manner to considerations, not the least of which are institutional inertia, conceptual caution and bureaucratic game-playing. Legislatures, lacking ultimate responsibility for their acts, have considerably more freedom if they choose to exercise it. This freedom is checked by the veto and by the debate that should be a normal part of the relations between the two branches. The fact that legislatures may run away from reality or propose legislation that is administratively impractical is inadequate justification for doing away with the legislative function. It is the tension between the legislature and the executive that protects us, not the acquiescence of one branch to the other.

The denigration of Congress has been going on for a long time and the executive, the press and Congress itself all share in the blame. If we are looking for a way out of the fiasco we have created of our federal system, I suspect that the solution lies more in the redress of balance between Congress and the White House than in finding the ideal president, and more in readjusting the balance between the levels of government than in perfecting the office of the presidency or its occupant.

It would not be all that difficult to

change the balance between the Congress and the White House. It would, however, require some major philosophical changes on the part of the media. Like giving equal time to equal branches. Not just in terms of official activities but in all the subtle ways that the media assign status to public officials. A first step might be to tell us if Senator Byrd and Tip O'Neill have any children and if they do what they are up to. It would be interesting to know who saw the leaders of Congress yesterday and to have some unctious television commentator speculate from the Capitol steps concerning matters presumably discussed. We could move on from there to elevate their social life from snippets in gossip columns to coverage at least equal to that of interviews with playwrights who happen to be in town, and then determine and publish the make, model and gas mileage of their official cars.

Artificial, yes, but no more so than the excruciatingly detailed descriptions we are provided of the president's personal life. After all, O'Neill is not only Speaker of the House but third in line for the presidency. If we really believe in both tripartite government as well as full physiological disclosure, then we should know his blood pressure and hemorrhoid status, too.

There should be a subsidiary benefit to such coverage. Like teenagers judged as obstreperous and undisciplined by adult society, congressmembers tend to fulfill the role we have assigned to them. We have treated them like juvenile delinquents and they have fallen to our expectations. One of the reasons we survive a seemingly endless succession of mediocrities in the White House is because the institution overcomes some of its occupant's less admirable instincts. Investing the leadership of Congress with substantially more status might achieve something of the same effect. Presidents, after all, aren't much different than members of Congress. They just can't get away with it as easily anymore.





It is too much, no doubt, to expect the press to voluntarily give up its infatuation with a monarchical presidency, but Congress could do considerably more to help itself. It could play Carter's own game and while it floundered around for substantive goals it could engage in a little symbolic reform.

The discreet employment of a public relations agency might even be in order. The campaign would have to be carefully devised, but the Avis model offers some hint of what is possible. There have been some highly successful corporate campaigns that have at their core the improvement of the self-image of the firm's employees.

The admission of television and radio to the Senate and the House floors would be a surefire means of increasing public interest. Perhaps most essential would be the willingness to take initiatives. Rather than waiting for Jimmy Carter to decide whether he'll let his cabinet officials be questioned on the floor of Congress, the Speaker and the Majority Leader could publicly invite them. They could suggest that the President travel to the Hill to meet with congressional leaders as an expression of his commitment to a "people's government," rather than always having members of Congress go to the White House. Speaker O'Neil has taken a few cautious first steps, like telling the president to stop foisting foreign heads of state on joint sessions, but much more could be done.

There remain some around town who think government should be concerned with more meaty issues. But faced with a president who seems to have set his sights on becoming the national Valium pill, a bit of symbolic readjustment may be all we can hope for at the moment. And if this is the case, I would like a few more symbols to mull over. It's only two months into this administration and already I find myself yawning.

#### MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE. . .

AND THEN THERE ARE THE OUTLYING PRECINCTS. How important one considers political activities outside Washington depends largely on whether one views Washington as the mountain spring of action or the final filtration system of a political tertiary treatment plant. Most of those employed in and around the federal government, including the press, prefer the former metaphor, but the truth is that not as much happens in Washington as people in Washington think. Phil Hart once described the Senate as a place where bills are passed twenty years after they should have been. The same sort of

delay occurs throughout the national government.

Meanwhile the rest of the country does not simply wait upon Washington. Much of the most interesting and significant political action occurs outside the capital city. It is largely unreported not because it will not ultimately have as much impact on our lives as the typical front-page story of the federal day, but because it is too difficult for the press to report. It is geographically dispersed, its significance can not be judged by the power of those involved, and its import becomes apparent not by national directive or regulation but by assimilation. A few cases in point:

- One of the most important political developments in recent years is the growth of the neighborhood government movement in urban areas. This movement which challenges not just big federal government, but bloated state and local government as well, is affecting cities all over the country but it is not being reported.

- Faced with a Supreme Court on which the troglodytes hold the balance of power, activist lawyers are turning more to state and local courts to redress injustices instead of seeking relief at the federal level. Political progressives are similarly engaged in guerilla-type battles on issues ranging from environmental reform to attacks on the corporate state. The press is no more prepared to cover guerilla politics than the military was prepared to fight guerilla warfare in Southeast Asia. So it pretends it isn't there.

- One of the most pleasant reliefs from the tedium of Cartermania is the occasional reportage from California concerning developments in that state. California is a political jurisdiction of 21 million people, a respectable size by American or world standards. And we know from sometimes bitter past experience that none of us are immune to what happens there. The governor of California who, you may recall, belatedly showed that Jimmy Carter was not the favorite of all Democrats, has been engaged in what is, consciously or unconsciously, some of the best satire of the Carter administration to date. While Carter has been getting flack over his failure to make his appointments live up to his promises, Brown has appointed citizen activists en masse to state regulatory board. A matter of weeks after the questionable Mr. Bell was confirmed as attorney general Governor Brown blithely named a woman non-judge to be chief justice of California. And while the Carter administration uses up its crucial first days without any substan-

tive changes in the nature of federal power, California is deep into consideration of a major decentralization of school authority. This may just be accidental and it may change, but it raises the fascinating possibility that Carter's promises could be fulfilled more by Jerry Brown than by Carter. In any case, it is worth watching and worth a good deal more attention than it has gotten.

#### BROOKS THE OPPOSITION

FORTUNATELY, not every Democrat on the Hill glazes over at a message from the other end of the avenue. The prime example of the last month was the Hon. Jack Brooks who holds to the presently novel view that the President should get the approval of Congress before engaging in wholesale reorganization of the government. Carter wants the right to do it subject to a congressional veto, not a unique but still questionable reversal of the executive-legislative roles.

Brooks' position was not so novel in the days of Richard Nixon. Nixon gave lesson after lesson in the dangers of extending blanket powers to the White House, but congressional memories are short and people like majority leader Robert Byrd who, according to the Star's Ross Evans, "took a position on reorganization authority very similar to Brooks' when Nixon was a president," are swallowing their doubts to demonstrate their fealty to their new lord.

The press had a hard time to figure out what to make of this member of Congress who dared to act like a member of Congress, but whether one agreed with him or not, Brooks was raising an important constitutional issue of the sort that was highly fashionable in the wake of Watergate but which the media now finds dull compared with coming up with the political power stats of Carterite ultra-pragmatism.

It had not all congealed as this is written but Brooks, who Evans describes as "acerbic" and having a "reputation for meanness" (presumably his refusal to toady to Carter is a case in point), deserves recognition as the first official challenger of an excess of the Carter administration.

#### ENERGY CZARISTS

THE OTHER OVERLOOKED FIGURE of the month is Governor Byrnes of New Jersey. Governor Byrnes took the energy crisis very seriously, seriously enough to make one wonder whether the only thing we have to fear out of the winter's misery

"AH NEVAH PROMISED Y'ALL A ROSE GARDEN...."



## CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED ADS: 10¢ a word. Payment must be enclosed with ad. Deadline: Third Tuesday of the month. Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW (#2) DC 20009

REWARD: Urgent need for information directly leading to present location of Vicki Cefaloni or her friend, Chris. Replies to Greg Miller, 5711 York Road, 2nd floor, Baltimore, Md. 21212.

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is the shivers, unemployment and high utility bills.

Governor Byrnes was only one of a number of state officials who rose to the crisis with an enthusiasm that should give us pause. I listened, for example, to a local radio station interrupt its programming as Virginia Governor Mills Godwin virtually commandeered the state airwaves to have his staff outline his complex martial-law type orders on meeting the crisis down to the number of hours a truck stop diner could be open (adequate time for food preparation and cleaning up was allowed). It was not hard to imagine that one was in Prague or Leningrad listening to the latest instructions from the commissar of energy.

This burst of authority from the heads of state militias was unsettling. The troops weren't there but there was an open-ended suspension of what most people consider individual initiatives taken for an indefinite period without debate or even apparent concern. The possibility that the crisis might have been partially contrived by the political mechanics of the gas industry added to the shock of realizing how easy it is to turn freedoms on their head and to slip from our imperfect state into something far more ugly.

Governor Byrnes, so far as I could tell, led the pack. People who violated his personal orders could be convicted and fined or sent to jail for a year. That included not setting your thermostat at the right level.

An aide to the governor, Robert Comstock, was described by the New York Times as saying that "the Governor and his energy aides would evaluate the extent of statewide compliance as the week progressed and that plans for spot checks of residences and businesses by the police were being formulated."

The Times went on:

"Asked whether court orders would be used to gain access to homes and businesses for enforcement purposes, Mr. Comstock said, 'We're hoping it won't be necessary.'"

"Do you really intend to arrest people who don't cooperate?" he was asked.

"Damn right we're going to arrest people," he said."

The vigor with which various officials resurrected dormant powers to deal with the problems of this winter is merely one hint that we could become the first nation that turns fascist in order to keep warm. Several months ago the Gazette published a disturbing account of the police-state activities already in motion to protect nuclear power installations (or nuclear power profits as the case may be). And now comes a report from England that a government-appointed commission has warned that Britain could, by the end of this century, wipe out its civil liberties if it proceeds with plans to expand its nuclear power industry.

According to Zodiac News Service, "the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has filed a report stating that, in order to protect plutonium from falling into the wrong hands, the massive surveillance of all citizens is likely to be required."

The commission described increased surveillance in a nuclear society as "highly likely and indeed inevitable."

It's not as exhilarating as a coup, but the erosion of rights to conquer fear is an eminently effective way of terminating a democracy. We have already taken a number of important but unheralded steps in this direction. For example, one's constitutional rights on a highway or public street in an automobile are considerably less than at home. Our traffic laws assume an implied consent to suspend certain rights in return for your drivers license, and the courts, in effect, have maintained that you are less a citizen in a car than elsewhere. Similarly, in order to avoid the statistically remote chance that your plane will be hijacked, you are required to undergo what would normally be considered an unreasonable search before flying. Interestingly, the laws protecting you against the statistically greater chance that your plane will be misflown or ill-maintained are not as stringent. The police inspect every passenger for guns but not every plane for malfunctions.

Lest someone charge me with advocating armed resistance at the thermostat, I hasten to note that I am more than will-

ing to turn the thermostat down and walk to work. It's just that I don't think that Governor Byrnes should have the right to send me to jail if I don't. I'm happy to cooperate if he asks, if for no other reason than I prefer shivering to dictators.

- SAM SMITH

THE CITY IS MOVING TOWARDS a right turn on red law for the benefit of motorists that it claims it doesn't want on the street anyway. Meanwhile pedestrians continue to risk their lives attempting to go straight ahead on green, forced to dodge auto traffic that seldom yields. If Jerry Moore really wanted to help, he'd introduce a bill requiring cars to stop for any pedestrian in the act of crossing.

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR Washington Post before reading the business and finance section. The Post has some curious notions as to what belongs there and front end news sometimes gets buried among the dividend reports. For example, on February 12, word that DC unemployment last year was actually 9.1% rather than the previously reported 7.4% was relegated to the business pages. But then 4000 more people out of work probably just isn't news anymore. . . . There's good news as well on the business page. On February 8, the Post reported that the earning of its parent company had doubled last year over 1975 to a record \$24.5 million. The families of the striking pressmen kicked out by the Post will be glad to hear that.

JULIUS HOBSON HAS REINTRODUCED his bill requiring a 5¢ deposit on all beverage containers sold here in the city. Hobson, Shackleton, Jerry Moore, and Jim Coates supported the bill that last time came up (it was defeated 8 to 5). The rest of the council went along with the industry. The proposal has the support of numerous citizen groups including the Federation of Civic Associations, the Adams Morgan Organization, DC PIRG and the Brookland Civic Association. Hobson estimates his bill will reduce litter here by 14%.

## EARLY WARNINGS

METRO'S PLANS to further gouge transit riders through imposition of a 50¢ rush hour fare in DC and other schemes comes before public hearings this month. The two in DC are on March 15 at Lincoln Jr. High, 16th & Irving NW and March 21 at Ballou Sr. High, 4th & Trenton SE. Both start at 730 pm. For a copy of the full fare proposal call 637-1328.

LITERACY ACTION OF WASHINGTON is looking for volunteers to tutor adults and teens in basic reading. Info: 387-7775. Workshops will be held this month.

THE CITY COUNCIL holds a hearing on March 21 at 2 and 7 pm on a bill that would require all persons to keep their sidewalk area clean, restrict handbill distribution and require trash compactors in new or renovated units. To testify call LaVerne White at 724-8077.

ROYAL STOKES, the "Royal" of WGTB-FM is giving a course on the history and appreciation of jazz beginning March 18 at the YWCA. Cost for the six week course is \$25. Info: 638-2100, ext. 27.

THE DC CHAPTER of the World Population Society has published a detailed guide to eighty-four population-related organizations in the DC area. Copies can be obtained by writing the WPA/DC Chapter c/o 1650 N. 21st Road (#1), Arlington, Va. 22209.

RESIDENTS who earned less than \$7000 last year may be eligible for property tax relief through an individual income tax credit or rebate. Those who fall into this category should file form H with their income tax. Individuals who are not required to file a DC tax return because their income is too low should call 629-4665 to obtain a copy of Schedule H and return it to the DC tax office by April 15.

THE FOSTER CARE PROJECT of Special Approaches in Juvenile Delinquency is looking for foster parents (who can be single or married, students or working people, or a group of adults) to help provide a home for runaway teenagers. The program is sponsored by SAJA and the Jewish Social Service Agency. Info: 387-8171 Mon-Thurs. Foster parents receive reimbursement for expenses. . . THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES is also looking for foster parents. Info: 629-5611.

THERE'LL BE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT forum on Monday, April 25 to consider possible changes in the rules of procedure before the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Ad-

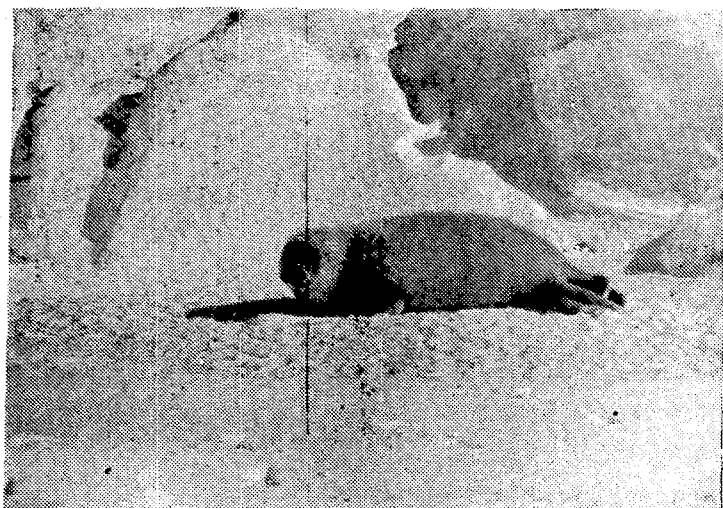
justment. As anyone who has appeared before either of these bodies realizes, there is considerable room for improvement. Copies of the existing rules can be obtained from the Office of Licenses & Permits, Room 105, 614 H NW. The forms will be held in room 11A of the District Building. Info: 629-4428.

TAX-Aide is a free income tax counselling service for older citizens sponsored by the National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons. Volunteer counselors trained by the Internal Revenue Service will be available at various times and places from now through April 9th. Info: 872-4950.

IF YOU WANT TO help the folks in AU Park and Spring Valley fight the highrise planned for the Apex theater site, which is predicated on a questionable alley closing now being challenged in a law suit, send bucks to the Committee of 100 on the Federal City in an envelope addressed to AU Park Citizens, Assn. President Jack Mower, 4436 48th Street, NW, DC 20016.

THE council's judiciary committee holds a hearing March 31 on a measure to prohibit the use of hollow point bullets by police. The hearing will take place at 10 and 2 in the city council chambers. Dave Clarke will chair. Call Susan Blue at 724-8031 or Betty Mitchell at 724-8070 if you want to get on the witness list.





## SEAL SLAUGHTER IN CANADA

ERIC PERLMAN

CLUB-wielding seal skin hunters, environmentalist tactical squads and a small army of world press will soon converge on the Newfoundland ice floes for the annual baby seal harvest beginning in mid-March.

Norwegian and Canadian ice-breakers carry the hunters straight to the harp seal nursery grounds. Armed with spiked clubs, the men range the ice fields beating seal pups unconscious and stripping the pelts from still-living flesh.

The elegant white fur commands high prices in the salons of America and Western Europe. The meat is left to rot on the ice.

The Vancouver, British Columbia-based organization — the self-styled "planetary environmental police" that interrupted Russian whaling operations in the Pacific

*Eric Perlman is a freelance writer specializing in science and the environment. He is a frequent contributor to the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle.*

last year — is spearheading the Save the Seals protests. Their task force includes three helicopters, two movie crews and three patrol squads on cross-country skis.

The nonviolent protesters plan to use their bodies to protect the seal pups — blocking the paths of incoming ice-breaker boats, shielding the seals from the hunters' clubs and carrying the babies to safety.

Swiss author and conservationist Franz Weber has offered to pay the Canadian government \$2.5 million to call off the seal hunt — the amount the government says Newfoundland fishermen have at stake in it.

But Canadian government Minister of Fisheries Romeo LeBlanc turned Weber's offer down, saying he wouldn't give in to "international blackmail." LeBlanc added that Weber could try to deal directly with the fishermen — each of whom makes about \$2200 from the hunt.

Weber says that instead he intends to spend the money to publicize the hunt and

thus turn world opinion against it. "Between 300 and 600 journalists have already agreed to come from all over the world," Weber said in a telephone interview. He said he hopes to fly the reporters to Newfoundland in a chartered Boeing 747, house them in a "hotel ship" and carry them to the killing grounds by helicopter and ice breaker.

Since 1895 more than 17 million baby harp seals have fallen to the clubs. According to Dr. Keith Ronald, dean of biological sciences at the University of Guelph in Canada, there are now fewer than one million harp seals in the Arctic seas. His census was sponsored by the Canadian Department of Fisheries.

In 1975 Dr. Ronald called for an immediate end to all industrial seal hunting, contending that harp seals could not survive such massive harvesting.

The Canadian government refused and set a 1976 quota of 127,000 pelts. The 1977 quota is even higher: 170,000 pelts, nearly 20 percent of the entire seal harp population.

## AD RATES

### COMMERCIAL

\$2 per column inch  
\$22.50 per quarter page  
\$45.00 per half page  
\$90.00 per page

### NON-PROFIT GROUPS

\$1 per column inch  
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### CLASSIFIEDS

10 cents a word

DC GAZETTE  
1739 Conn. Ave. NW (#2)  
DC 20009



NATIONAL CENTER FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

## ECONOMICS AS IF PEOPLE MATTERED

A Lecture by E. F. Schumacher

AUTHOR OF 'SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL' (Harper & Row)

MARCH 21, 1977 8 PM LISNER AUD., G.W.U.

\$3 TICKETS: Marvin Center Info Desk, G.W.U.

## DC GAZETTE

1739 Connecticut Ave NW (#2)  
DC 20009  
232-5544

THE DC GAZETTE is published monthly except during the summer. Our deadline is the second Tuesday of the month except for ads which should be submitted by the third Tuesday. The Gazette welcomes short articles but cannot afford to pay for them at this time. The Gazette is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and uses the services of Liberation News Service, Zodiac News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service and Community Press Features. The Gazette is available by mail for \$6 a year. Single copies are 40¢ if mailed and 25¢ at select newsstands.

EDITOR: Sam Smith  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Anne Chase,  
John Cranford  
ARCHITECTURAL CRITIC: John  
Wiebenson.



According to Greenpeace spokesman Gary Zimmerman, actual kills far exceed pelt allotments. Many seals are killed too far from the ships to be collected, the ice breakers crush many bodies while steaming toward the nursery grounds and some pelts are damaged in skinning and loading and are thrown out. None of these counts in the quota.

Last year Greenpeace planned to stain the white-coated seal pups with an unwashable, organic green dye: Green-spotted fur coats would have been unfashionable and unmarketable and the baby seals could have kept their skins.

But the Canadian government discovered the Greenpeace plans and pushed through an amendment to their "Seal Protection Act" making it illegal to tag, mark or dye a seal. Threatened with jail, Greenpeace gave up its dye supplies. As a result, few seals were saved last year.

This year, Zimmerman says, "Greenpeace members who go on the ice must expect to be arrested." The Canadian "Seal Protection Act" has made it illegal even to touch a baby seal without a license — though with a license it permits beating the pups bloody and stripping off their skins.

Angered by the Greenpeace protests, Norwegian and Canadian seal hunters have threatened violence — clubbing, shooting and equipment sabotage. None occurred last year, however.

More dangerous is the general agreement among the sailors to withhold emergency assistance if needed. "If they fall in the ice or get caught in a storm, I'll make no move to help," said one Canadian sea captain. "They have no business being there."

Norwegian hunting operations are hard-pressed to survive. Earlier this century

they decimated harp seal breeding grounds along the coasts of Norway and Iceland and throughout the White Sea. The Canadian Atlantic is their last remaining hunting ground. The highly mechanized Norwegian seal-hunting fleets will quickly turn unprofitable without massive seal skin harvests.

This year the Canadians have been allotted far more pelts while the Norwegian quota has been reduced. Greenpeace officials believe the Canadian government has raised their own financial stake in the industry to stem the rising public demand that it be stopped.

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## NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

YOU'VE READ ABOUT the number of ex-IBM board members in Jimmy Carter's cabinet (three of them) and probably you were wondering who replaced them at IBM. Rest easy, they found three top officials of the Ford administration to take over the jobs.

THE CONVICTION OF HUSTLER PUBLISHER Larry Flynt is one of the most important First Amendment cases of recent years, but you'd never know it from some of the press accounts. The Washington Post, for example, buried the first news of the conviction, then followed up with an account that gave little hint of the constitutional questions involved. . . EDITOR & PUBLISHER, trade mag for the newspaper industry, stuck it back on page 52. . . OUR OWN GUESS is that if the government imposed prior censorship on the nation's newspapers, 68% of them would run editorials praising the move as an act of patriotism.

IF JIMMY CARTER really wants to cut down on bureaucratic red tape he's going to have to work awfully hard — just to get us back to where we were a few decades ago. Ernest Galdi, deputy director of the Federal Register, which prints all government regulations as they are issued, came to work for the government during the Truman administration. At the time, he said recently, "we were printing 15,000 pages (in the Register) a year. Now it's 60,000 and most of that growth is because of requirements set by statute." . . WHILE CARTER has told regulation-issuers to sign their regulations and cabinet officers to read them before issuing them, we bet he won't take the really revolutionary step: ordering public officials to reveal who wrote their speeches for them.

ONE OF THE BUSIEST cabinet officers to date has been Brock Adams, who, as we reported earlier, has been a friend of freeways. In his first month in office he approved two freeways bitterly opposed by community groups: suburban DC's I-66 and Manhattan's Westway. Anti-I-66ers tried to meet with a White House official about the decision but they didn't even want to talk about it.

THE DEPARTURE of Senator Abourezk at the end of his current term means the loss of one of the few senators willing to speak for change.

CHARLES BREMMER of Reuter reports that London has 80% more sunshine than it did before it began cleaning up its air a couple of decades ago. Things may even be better than in the 17th century when a diarist wrote of the "hellish and dismal cloud of seal-coal" that produced "catarrhs, phtisicks, coughs and consumptions" that "rage more in this city than in the whole earth besides." London hasn't had a pea soup fog in 14 years. So clean air laws can work.

THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT has gone ahead on its own and given companies the right to apply for patents on new forms of life created by recombinant DNA research under a proposed regulation that shortcircuits the National Institutes of Health safety guidelines. Commerce didn't even wait for an interagency committee report on the subject. (See last month's issue for more on this).

WORST CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH: The DC Boy Scout official who told a cub mother she

could obtain "experienced uniforms" at Value Village. VV sells used clothes. . . And the Hollywood critic of "Tail Gunner Joe" who complained that "The movie is made for the simple purpose of malignatizing McCarthy in the minds of Americans."

ALTERNATIVE NEWSPAPERS AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE RUNNING INTO HARD TIMES. Casualties of the past few months include DC's Washington Times and Newsworks and the old-standby of Atlanta, Great Speckled Bird. . . Now the Lancaster (Pa) Independent Press and the Milwaukee Bugle American, report serious financial problems. A 90% increase in newsprint costs over the past decade hasn't helped.

A LEGAL SECRETARY in Chicago's public defender's office was recently fired because she refused to make coffee for her boss.

TWO speech scientists working with an I.B.M. computer say they have perfected a method to produce political speeches that may have chilling consequences on future US elections.

Speech experts Doctors Donald Shields of the University of Missouri and John Cragen of Illinois State University report that they devised their techniques during the 1976 elections.

The two scientists say they wanted to come up with a political speech that would be effective in Middle America. In other words, they explain, one that would "play in Peoria."

They took that phrase literally: the two went to Peoria and questioned a cross-section of residents on their views on foreign policy.

The responses were then fed into an I.B.M. 370 computer and the machine was instructed to turn out a seven- to nine-minute speech on foreign affairs.

According to Shields, the machine did as instructed. He says he delivered the computer-written address to an audience that did not know the technique, and that he received a standing ovation.

Shields says that, with their technique, all you need to know is an attractive candidate to deliver the lines.

Asked if the method will be perfected by the 1980 elections, Shields answered: "Yes, not to mention 1984."

IS there a right time for torture?

According to Patrick J. Buchanan, a speech-writer and policy advisor for former president Richard Nixon, the answer is "Yes."

Buchanan, in an article entitled "The Right Time for Torture" has come out with an endorsement of its use in the most recent issue of *Skeptic* magazine.

Buchanan writes that "If there are occasions when it is justifiable to kill in execution, then there are times when it is morally justifiable to inflict temporary mental or physical suffering, an infinitely less serious violation of human rights."

The former speech-writer then adds: "Torture is justifiable if the matter is grave enough, if there is no less odious alternative available, like truth serum, and if it is almost certain that the victim is in possession of the information wanted."

RETIRED Army General William Westmoreland, the US army commander during the Vietnam war, says the government's failure to impose strict press censorship during the war was the single greatest cause of America's failure in Vietnam.

Westmoreland, speaking at a press conference in Hawaii recently, said it was a "fatal" mistake to send Americans to fight in Vietnam with a divided country at home. He stated that the way for the US to have won the conflict would have been to formally declare war, and then to impose strict news censorship.





# roses & thorns



**THORNS:** To the Municipal Planning Office for producing a draft of city goals and policies that is full of vague generalities and phrases that city hall will be able to interpret anyway it wants to. MPO drew up the draft and set a timetable for its adoption before getting around to asking citizens what they thought about it. As Everett Scott, chair of the Upper Northeast Coordinating Council, correctly noted, either the District government "does not understand the principle of public participation" or the goals have already been selected "and the citizens are now asked . . . to react to these policies rather than participate in setting them."

**ROSES:** to ANC 3B and the citizens of Glover Park, Foxhall Village and Burleith. At a community meeting some months ago, 90% of those present voted to endorse Julius Hobson's proposal for a referendum on statehood and 60% favored having the ANC go on record in favor of statehood itself. The ANC followed up at a subsequent meeting by voting to endorse the referendum bill (which Hobson has reintroduced this session).

**ROSES:** To the city council for voting to set up an independent commission to run DC General, which has been shamefully mismanaged under the Department of Human Resources. The council overrode the mayor's veto on this one, with only Doug Moore and Wilhemina Rolark sticking by hisoner.

**ROSES:** To Marion Barry, for calling for a rollback in the property tax rate to balance the mayor's budgetary windfall as a result of rising assessments. It wouldn't take of the whole problem but it could help.

**THORNS:** To the mayor and his aides for only providing 19 houses for sale under the urban homesteading program since 1974 despite thousands of boarded up buildings being available for the program.

**ROSES:** To the city council for passing a bill establishing standards for the use of arbitration in settling disputes in the city. The bill, which the mayor let go through without approval or disapproval, offers protections for citizens who prefer to use arbitration to lawyer-intensive adversary solutions. If you're planning to draw up or sign any agreement that might be contested later, you should check this bill out. It's number 1-209.

**THORNS:** To AU president and ex-Kissinger sidekick Joseph Sisco who was asked in the January-February issue of Skeptic (which took up the question of torture) whether US support of the Chilean junta wasn't "unseemly." Sisco replied: "Well

it depends on what weight you give to the principal considerations. If you give weight, above all else, to the element of the people you will obviously come out with one answer. If you give weight to the overall question of national interest, then I think you have to balance one against the other."

**THORNS:** To Judge Norma Johnson for demanding that preservationists post a \$50,000 bond if they wanted to hold up the destruction of a group of row houses on N Street that Arnold & Porter had sold to a developer. The prohibitive bond was, according to Betts Abel of Don't Tear It Down, "the highest we've ever been asked to post. We only had to post \$100 to delay the Willard Hotel." The money couldn't be raised, so the buildings were bulldozed.

**ROSES:** To Irving Toplin of Ridgewood, NJ, who pointed out in a letter to the Post that, "The franking privilege ought to be a two-way street. Everytime I write the President, my representative and two senators on an issue, it costs me 52 cents and that's too much." Toplin suggest that citizens expressing their views to Washington should get free or reduced rate postage.

**THORNS:** To Willie Hardy for reviving the odious concept of a youth curfew. Julius Hobson called it "an oppressive piece of legislation that borders on fascism."

**ROSES:** To Calvin Rolark of the Informer and president of the Capital Press Club, for drawing attention to the lack of television, arts and journalism programs at UDC.

**THORNS:** To the mayor for his role in the watermain repair controversy. The mayor originally vetoed legislation that would have had the city pay for watermain repairs up to where the mains enter a private dwelling. He recently signed a bill that provides only for the city to pay up to the property line. It is better than the existing situation but still could end up costing homeowners a great deal of money.

**ROSES:** To Washington Catholic Archbishop William Cardinal Baum for his statement opposing capital punishment.

**THORNS:** To Walter Washington for failing to join in the law suit against I-66.

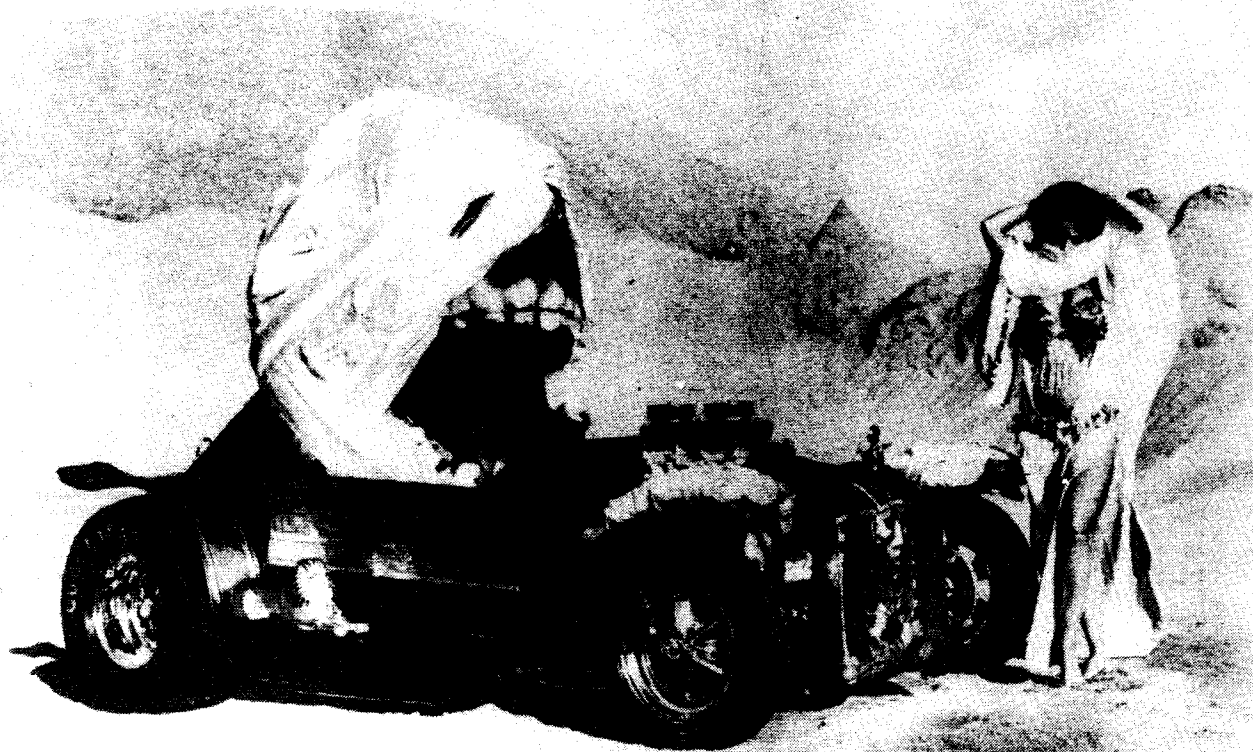
## looking back



THE deadletter office of the Washington Post Office, late 19th century. From the Library of Congress collection.



# DC EYE



IF you haven't been able to see the King Tut exhibition, don't give up hope. The "Mummy Machine" shown above will be featured at the DC Armory's "World of Wheels" which opens March 11. We are informed that the head of the "Mummy Machine" was constructed of fiberglass using the mold from a weather balloon. The seat is actually 'the tongue' of the mummy. The sphinx on the running boards and the tombstone radiator were hand-formed with a clay mold. A pyramid on the rear houses the gas tank and battery. The tail lights are shaped as mini-pyramids. Completely operational, the Mummy Machine is equipped with a dynamic 427 cubic inch S.O.C. Ford engine with dual 4-barrell, independent front suspension, four wheel disc brakes, a tube aero-space frame, and a Dana-60 rear end."

FIRST THE EAR REPORTED THAT THE POST, better known in that column as the OP, was holding sessions on how to make the paper lighter. Then a heavy-handed light column called "Post Scripts" showed up. And then an item headed "Ear Aches." The item reported in Ear style - although at much greater length and without the airiness of a true Ear column - how the Star was forced into an out of court settlement with a former Saks shoe salesman named Richard T. Joy who had felt injured by one of Ear's tales. It was a nice try but the Post better stick to the turgid stuff. Ear had the last laugh anyway. The Post item was followed by a paragraph all in caps at the top of the genuine Ear: "WHAT'S BIGGER THAN MICRONESIA, ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON, AND TOOK THE OP FIVE WEEKS TO FIGURE OUT? . . . EAR'LL NEVER TELL, WIGS, BUT ACHES WITH JOY. . ."

METROTICKS: Although there hasn't been much publicity about it, Metro is going ahead with plans to install automatic fare collection devices for its subway. This may add still one more hairy dimension to the Metro fare labyrinth. A letter in the New York Times from John J. Quinn, retired assistant superintendent of the New York City Transit Authority, raises some of the problems we can expect from these electronic marvels:

"The Transit Authority has looked at electronic fare collection systems. . . There are at least seven reasons why the Transit Authority doesn't have an electronic fare-collection system. The first three are: cost, cost and cost. The fourth is lack of accuracy, the fifth is that electronic turnstiles are not fast enough to handle the volume of people the Transit

Authority carries, the sixth reason is they are unreliable, down time is excessive, and finally, they make fare theft easier, not harder."

A MEMBER of the gay community in DC says he was pressured by the FBI and the DC police in the early 1970's to infiltrate gay organizations and to submit daily reports on their activities back to police agencies.

Carl "Butch" Merritt, in an interview with *The Advocate*, says he accepted the payment of \$50 a week after being pressured by police into accepting the assignment. Merritt claims that police and FBI officials forced him into the undercover work by agreeing to drop bad check charges against him and by insisting that "communists" were behind the pro-gay and anti-war movements of the early 1970s.

According to the *Advocate*, Merritt "is the first openly gay informant to go public with his story."

Merritt charges that he was instructed by his police contacts to urge others to commit illegal acts; he says he disconnected public address microphones during anti-war speeches, and once handed out blue and white capsules at the police's request that caused those who took them to become sick or nauseous.

Merritt also claims to have burglarized offices and taken petitions from various activist groups. The police used these petitions, he states, to compile lists of names and telephone numbers for their file.

STATEHOOD NOTES: A recent letter to the Washington Star raised two potential legal problems for statehood. One was that since Maryland had ceded DC to the

federal government, it might have to approve the city becoming a state. The second was that something would have to be done about the three presidential electoral votes of the District (which, under statehood, would become an unpopulated federal enclave except for the president and family). The first point is interesting but not significant. Maryland could argue that the city should be retroceded, but there is apparently no interest in that. If Maryland doesn't want us back - and we'd be happy to be retroceded; it would improve democracy in both DC and Maryland - it can't have its cake and eat it too by trying to prevent us from becoming a state. Removing the three superfluous electors might require a constitutional amendment, but not before statehood was granted. Statehood could be approved and either a court would declare the District elector section of the constitution moot or an amendment could be introduced and quickly passed after the statehood legislation was passed. If these arcane legal housekeeping problems are the best the anti-statehooders have been able to come up with in five years, the going looks pretty clear. . . THE COALITION FOR SELF-DETERMINATION has begun a quiet study of the economic feasibility of statehood. . . JIMMY CARTER SAYS HE DOESN'T THINK statehood is advisable. It's a step forward. He's the first president to be aware that the issue exists. Now all we've got to do is make him change his mind. We gather he does that from time to time.

THANKS TO INTENSIVE lobbying by neighborhood commissions, community groups and Polly Shackleton, Ward Three has a food stamp center again. It's at Regency House, 5201 Conn. Ave, NW (call 629-5863 for info) and will be largely staffed by volunteers as before. With the normal administrative agility for which he is so noted, Joe Yeldell had suddenly closed down the office in order to save money, despite the fact that the volunteer assistance cut costs below that of a typical DHR unit. Further, the 90,000 residents of the ward were without a food stamp center.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to write council-member Arrington Dixon to express support for the initiative and referendum bill. Write him c/o the Government Operations Committee, District Building, DC 20004 and ask that your statement be included in the record of the hearings.

UP UNTIL EARLY last year the trash trucks were using four-men crews and picking up less than 3/10th of a ton of garbage per manhour. After switching to three-man crews, productivity went up to nearly 4/10ths of a ton of trash per manhour. . . BIG STORY ON THE GEORGETOWN waterfront is how new commercial space there isn't renting. That helps explain the new push for residential construction.

PEPCO IS WITHHOLDING A RECENT efficiency report that rates the company last in comparison with 23 other electric utilities. According to DC PIR and DC POWER, the report is being kept secret because the information "is extremely embarrassing to the company."

According to a report in *Electrical Week*, the 23-member organization that prepared the efficiency study - The Intercompany Performance Comparison Group - instructed PEPCO and the other utilities to deliver copies of the report to their state utility commission. Yet PEPCO, 4 months after release of the report (report was released Oct. 7, 1976) had still not given a copy of the report to the Public Service Commission, according to top officials there. In addition, repeated calls by the consumer groups to obtain a copy of the report from PEPCO had not been returned.

Bob Chlopak, spokesperson for the two groups said that "the report is invaluable since it pinpoints areas of waste and inefficiency that could amount



to millions of dollars in ratepayers money." Chlopak also noted that the study will be important to the management audit of PEPCO recently ordered by the PSC.

Some of the findings reported in the summary of the study include (all ranking based on 23 utilities for 1975):

- Customer Accounts Expense - PEPCO ranked 22nd in their costs for customer accounting and collection activities. They spent \$24.76 per customer compared to top-ranked Wisconsin Public Service which spent only \$8.88 per customer.

- Net Administrative and General Expense - PEPCO ranked last in this category spending \$44.88/customer compared to top-ranked New York State Electric and Gas which spent \$17.20/customer.

- Net operation and Maintenance Expense - PEPCO ranked last spending \$193.42/customer compared to top-ranked New York Electric and Gas which spent \$103.36/customer.

- Materials and Supplies Inventory. - PEPCO ranked last in this category having the largest inventory as a percentage of gross electric property and plant. PEPCO average \$1.63 per dollar of gross electric property and plant compared to the leader Public Service Electric and Gas which averaged 38¢.

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR REFORM of Marijuana is gearing up for another effort to decriminalize marijuana here. A poll taken last year found that 44% of DC residents favored decriminalization while 37% opposed it. DC is now arresting about 3000 a year on pot charges. Ninety-five percent of the cases involve simple possession, 80% of the arrestees are black. Seventy percent of the cases involving whites get dropped, only a bit over a third of those involving blacks get dropped.

RESIDENTS NEAR PLANNED Metro stops are getting worried about parking and traffic problems when the stations open. . . HERE'S A DISTRESSING FINDING from a recent crime survey in Stanton Park: in 29 burglaries (55%), entry was gained through a window and in 14 of these burglaries, the window bars were simply removed. The Stanton Park Neighborhood Assn. also reports that half of the burglaries occurred during working hours but that two-thirds of the street robberies took place between 9:30 and 10:15 pm and 5:30 and 6 pm. . . .

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM is continuing to have problems with its capital improvements projects. Shaw Junior High is running a year behind schedule. School board capital improvements committee chair John Warren blames "bad workmanship on the part of the contractor, incorrect hardware and hardware installation" . . . Terrell Junior High was scheduled to open last September but problems with the pipes and heating system have delayed things. . . The Martha Winston Learning Center did open, but within a few days the gym floor had seriously buckled. Says Warren, "Although this problem was corrected by the contractor, it does say something about the quality of the work." . . . The Morgan School is now four years behind schedule.

ALTHOUGH THE CITY HAS ended the practice of rotating fire stations on duty, three combined rescue-fire stations are, in effect, still on part-time service, since there are only enough personnel at them to man either the rescue or the fire trucks. Thus when the rescue equipment is on call, the fire trucks are out of commission.



FOR A CLEAR ACCOUNT of how legislative authority has moved from Capitol Hill to the White House read "The Vanishing Congress" by David J. Muchow. (\$10 from N. American International, PO Box 28278, Central Station, DC 20005.) It describes the growth in the role of the Office of Management and Budget, contains useful historical material on various recurring congressional-presidential conflicts, and describes some of the tricks of the budgetary trade, which the executive uses to keep the Congress off balance. This is a fine reference work for one dealing with or concerned about federal legislation.

YOU CAN GET A COPY OF the McGovern report on nutrition by writing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, 119 D Street, NE, DC 20510.

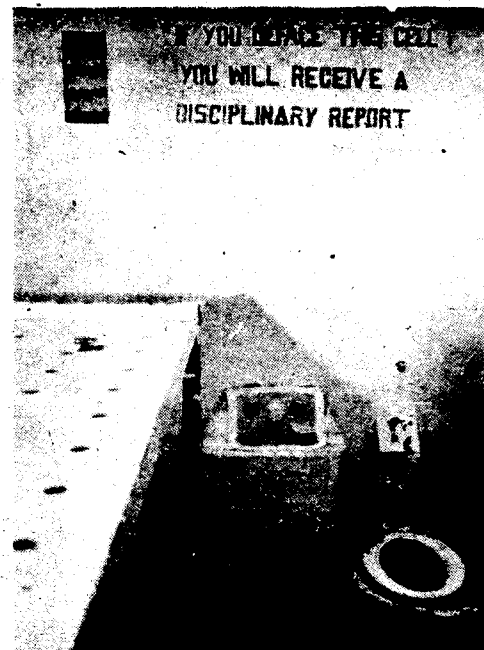
THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA is running an anti-apartheid poster contest. Posters will be exhibited first at the United Nations, after which they will be part of a national travelling exhibition. Posters should include a slogan in clearly legible letters as a part of the design. \$500 first prize. Final entry date: April 1. Info: American Committee on Africa, 305 E. 46th St., NYC, NY 10017.

THE 25th Annual Congress of the Esperanto League for North America will be held at Georgetown University, July 24-28.

Esperanto, a working international language since 1887, was developed as a universal second language. Conferees will include visitors who do not speak English and most of the conference will be conducted in Esperanto. Info: Esperanto League, 6451 Barnaby NW, DC



## 'Not a punishment'



(Editor's Note: The following instructions to prison guards regarding the treatment of prisoners in isolation or "the hole", were taken from the North Carolina Corrections Facility for Women in Raleigh. They were first printed in Bar None, a prison magazine published in Somerville, Massachusetts.)

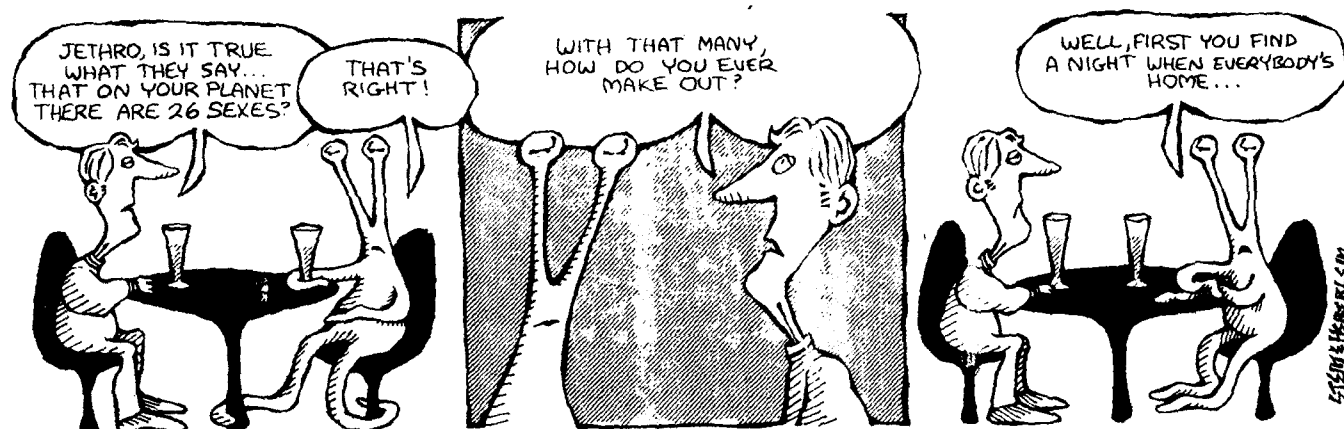
1. No Clothing: (this includes dress, bra, panties, etc.)
2. No Mattress, Pillow, or Linens: (sheet, blanket, towel, washcloth, pillowcase, etc.)
3. No personal articles (toothbrush, deodorant, soap, etc.)
4. No cigarettes or matches.
5. Cut off water in cell.
6. Make sure that everything that goes into the cell, comes out of the cell - especially important if you enter the cell. It is best to remove pens and other objects from pockets before entering cell. At meal times make sure all cups, plates, etc. are counted before going into the cell and after it is removed. No forks, spoons, cup lids or knives should go into the cell.
7. The attendant should observe the inmate during mealtime closely. Make sure all food is eaten or returned. Make sure that the inmate does not stuff the mouth so full that she could choke herself by blocking her throat with food.
8. After taking everything from the inmate do a thorough search of hair, armpits, groin area and mouth for hidden articles. The nurse will do an internal search if necessary. Remove false teeth and partial plates.
9. Make a search of the cell for hidden articles: Never return a suicidal patient to the same cell she occupied prior to the start of suicidal precautions. She may have hidden articles in her old cell.
10. No paper napkins are used. Toilet Tissue is not given. No sanitary protection is used (Kotex, tampons, etc.)

(REMEMBER A WAD OF PAPER OR COTTON CAN CHOKE A PERSON.)

11. If there are any questions of what to do or not to do, please call the nurse on duty.

You may not agree with any or all of these instructions. However, they are necessary precautions to help the inmate stay alive until she becomes mentally able to help herself. A potential suicidal person may not look or act sick. She probably will become angry when you carry out your instructions. REMEMBER this is not a punishment. It is to protect the inmate.





## Haven for the handicapped

STEPHEN DILAURO  
In Berkeley, California

Last March, Michael White hitchhiked here from Oklahoma. This was hardly unusual for a 22-year-old -- except that White traveled in a wheelchair.

White, now a computer programmer who keeps his own apartment in a community near here, is one of many physically disabled persons from throughout the nation who have come to Berkeley in search of a new way of life.

This university city is their mecca. The reason is Berkeley's Center for Independent Living, the largest self-help facility for severely disabled people in the country.

CIL began in 1972 as an offshoot of the University of California at Berkeley's Physically Disabled Students Program -- the first on-campus program of higher education for the disabled in the country.

There are now 500 disabled students attending classes at Berkeley and "doing very well academically," according to PDSP director Don Lorraine.

But "PDSP was geared only to help disabled students," says CIL co-founder Ed Roberts, a polio victim who now directs California's Department of Rehabilitation from an iron lung. "Some of the people in that program saw the need in the community and founded CIL."

Since then, the Center has moved off-campus into a large, multi-purpose complex and has grown to provide services to almost 2,000 persons. Eventually its members hope to reach the area's 20,000-plus disabled, senior and blind residents.

While CIL provides a wide range of services, perhaps its key contribution has been in transportation.

At a shop in the center, wheelchairs are motorized and vans converted so that the handicapped can drive them. Tom Fussy, an able-bodied person who runs the wheelchair repair shop, demonstrated the maneuverability of an electric wheelchair by running it around the interior of the shop, dodging between chairs and toolboxes.

"From the outset we've operated on the principle that we'll tackle any problem that comes into the shop and return the chair to the owner the same day," Fussy says. "Our record is pretty good so far."

And in what may prove to be its most important project, the shop is designing a new prototype wheelchair, to take the place of the standard, less mobile chair whose design has not changed since the turn of the century.

More than 50 percent of the CIL staff members are themselves disabled.

The editor of its quarterly magazine, Jan McEwen, has been blind since birth. Dr. Dominic Harveston, a nationally renowned clinical psychologist and author who joined the CIL staff after leaving a faculty position at Berkeley, suffers from multiple sclerosis.

"I felt it was a necessity that I work with these people," Harveston says. "There was no other choice for me. People previously relegated to a dependency role were now asserting their independence."

CIL co-founder and director Phil Draper runs the center from a wheelchair having lost the use of all his limbs after a spinal cord injury.

"I really feel that the thing CIL has given me, as an individual, is a greater control over my own life," Draper says. "Now I can succeed or fail on my own and find out how it feels."

This ability to succeed in the face of seemingly insurmountable handicaps is illustrated by CIL member Hale Zukas, who spearheaded a drive that resulted in the redesigning of sidewalk ramps for wheelchairs in Berkeley.

Zukas, unable to speak and strapped into a wheelchair because of muscle spasms, was able with the help of other disabled persons to convince the Berkeley City Planning Board that the ramps then being installed were too steep for wheelchairs to negotiate.

The ramps were also redesigned to slope diagonally so that the blind would not unsuspectingly follow them into traffic.

Both in transportation and other fields, additional services the center is providing for disabled area residents include:

- A dial-a-ride service. From 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. fully insured vans are available that are equipped with mobile radios and hydraulic lifts.
- Job training, such as the computer programming courses that helped Michael White find a job. Theater courses, including a current production of a play written especially for performance by the handicapped, offer a creative outlet.
- A masters degree program in health administration.
- A resident nurse for counseling on self-health care and on diseases that afflict only the disabled.
- A lawyer and paralegal advocates who are now challenging the lack of facilities for the handicapped in the local bus system.

Because of CIL's success, the California State Department of Rehabilitation has authorized the establishment throughout the state of nine similar programs, called Independent Living Programs. And there is now a CIL in Boston and one in

## WEEKEND TRIPPER

JUST about every journal worthy of the name in this town provides its readers with all sorts of useful advice on how to spend their spare time. We realize that we have somewhat shirked our duty in this respect and as partial restitution offer what may be the first (or the last) in a series on unusual and interesting weekend trips to take in the metropolitan area. The author is Park Barner and the report originally appeared in the National Jogging Association newsletter. The Jogger is available for \$15 with a membership in the NJA, 1910 K Street, NW, DC 20006.

ON October 23-23 I jogged the C&O Canal from Washington DC to Cumberland, Maryland. Although it was a race against two other runners, I treated it as a casual run and planned on taking 34 to 40 hours to reach Cumberland.

Including the six hours of stopping time I still made the trip within my target, taking 36 hours; 48 minutes, 34 seconds. There were two bad stretches where I had problems.

The first was near Hancock, Md. at 4 a.m. about 120 miles and 21 hours into the run. I felt as though I was falling asleep on my feet, probably a result of not running fast enough to generate enough body heat in the near twenty degree cold that night. It gave me the feeling that I should go to sleep right on the ground and that is very dangerous. After

a meal of pancakes and coffee plus an hour of sleep I was on my way refreshed after a stop of nearly four hours.

The second bad spot came less than five hours later when I became a bit dehydrated after not seeing my helpers for some 30 miles. They misjudged my pace as I left Hancock and missed me at the first meeting place only five miles from Hancock. They thought I had been in trouble and turned back to Hancock so they backtracked to look for me while I continued toward Cumberland.

I had to slow to walk at about 154 miles and it took over an hour to cover the next two miles, including a hike up a mountain to bypass the closed Paw Paw Tunnel. I met my help just after 156 miles near Paw Paw, West Virginia and after a half hour of eating and drinking was able to resume the trip.

Covering the last 30 miles in just over five hours, I finished in the dark at Cumberland, Maryland just about 8 p.m. I was still running freely and had no blisters or muscle pains.

During the run I drank two gallons of orange juice and drink, half a quart of grape drink, two quarts of water and two cups of coffee. I also ate half a pound of honey, noodle soup, mushroom soup, an apple and the pancakes with syrup. That isn't much for 1 1/2 days and I weighed 13 pounds less at the end. A great experience.



Dallas, with plans for another in New York.

But despite its recognition and popularity, the Berkeley CIL is floundering financially. It is an expensive operation, with estimated costs for fiscal 1977-78 running between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000 financed mainly through government funds. The center is due to lose within a year its initial seed money from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

And the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, whose jurisdiction includes Berkeley, met recently to consider cutting back CIL's county funding by 25 percent. A final decision has not yet been reached.

When the center's board of directors suggested a cutback in services to curb the rising monthly deficit, the staff decided to take pay cuts. Now the center is going to the public for support for the first

time, conducting a series of fund drives.

Michael White, the hitch-hiker, sums up the attitude of those who have been helped by CIL: "There are thousands of people living out their years in hospitals, institutions and back rooms. CIL proves so much more is possible. I'd hate to see it cut back."

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## Crapper lives!



Crayon rubbing of Crapper's drain cover. By P. W. Eastman

PROMPTED by snide references to Thomas Crapper, the inventor of the automatic flush toilet valve, Executive Director Paul W. Eastman of the Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin has recently found definitive proof that not only did Crapper live, but he did in fact operate a large foundry and sanitary engineering firm.

Eastman read a disparaging article about Crapper and his invention in the May 1975 *Smithsonian*. In the article, the author said he was "convinced Crapper is a myth," created by a British author who wrote a biography of him called *Flushed with Pride* published in 1969.

Believing Crapper had been handed a bum rap, Eastman took time during a London vacation to find Crapper's grave, in Elmer's End Cemetery (now known as the Beckingham Crematorium) on the outskirts of London. Eastman then proceeded to make a crayon rubbing of the gravestone and now gladly shows it to anyone doubting the existence of the great plumber. (Crapper lived from 1837 to 1910.)

Earlier, the ICPRB director had found a drain cover with Crapper's name on it, located just outside the apartments of the Dean of Westminster Abbey in London. The rubbing Eastman did there, after obtaining special permission from the Abbey's Clerk of the Yard, is reproduced here. The "Marlboro Works" mentioned on the drain cover refer to Crapper's foundry in London, a photograph of which appears in *Flushed with Pride*.

Eastman has, since returning from England, had several of his rubbings framed and reproduced, and is more than willing to describe the fascinating aspects of Crapper's prolific life with anyone who comes by.

He has also attempted to present a rubbing to a prominent congressman long associated with the Potomac, at a meeting, but was ruled out as "in poor taste" by the organizers of the meeting — a prominent women's organization also long associated with the Potomac. Apparently, the stigma attached to Crapper's invention lives on.

— Potomac Basin Reporter

## Dams in danger

ROGER RAPOPORT

WHEN Idaho's new Teton Dam sprang two leaks last June 3, the project engineer wasn't worried — despite earlier warnings by environmentalists and a project geologist of earthquake faults riddling the site and of issues in the north abutment.

Two days later the dam burst, releasing a 15-foot wave that swept 75 miles downstream, killing 11 people and destroying thousands of homes and offices and 100,000 acres of farmland.

Since then the House Committee on Government Operations has concluded that the problems at Teton were no exception.

"A number of dams now being designed or constructed have significant safety problems related to geology, seismicity and design," the committee said in its report on the Teton disaster. "The potential for tragic losses in lives and property posed by these dams could be as great or even greater than the \$1 billion damage that resulted from the failure of the Teton Dam."

Dam building is an imperfect science. While past experience helps, each new reservoir is, in a sense, an experiment.

But as the House committee points out, government authorities have too often insisted on trying unproven designs in geologically unsafe areas.

According to the Sierra Club, 20,000 of the 49,000 dams in the US are situated in such a way that failure or malfunction would significantly imperil life and property.

The Sierra Club's Brock Evans contends that structures like the Ririe Dam near Idaho Falls, Missouri's Meramec Park Dam and the Wolf Creek Dam in Colorado are potentially just as dangerous as Teton.

Perhaps the greatest risk is in California, where scores of reservoirs have been created in earthquake country.

ROGER Rapoport is a San Francisco Bay Area-based freelance writer whose articles have appeared in *New Times*, *Esquire* and the *Atlantic*.

"Today in central California you've already got the Folsom, Oroville, Don Pedro, New Hogan, Paradise and Lake McClure reservoirs all sitting right on top of the Foothills Fault System," says one geologist.

"There are big dams. If the Folsom Dam were to go in a quake, as many as 100,000 people could be killed in Sacramento by flash flooding."

Correcting the problem could cost billions of dollars and also force the state into a drastic water conservation program that could severely limit growth.

One trouble with building in quake-prone regions is that years of study are required to be certain that a given fault is inactive. Thus seismic experts urge dam builders to assume that faults in the vicinity of their construction sites are potentially active unless convincing evidence exists to the contrary.

The devastating San Fernando quake of 1971, for instance, took place on an obscure Southern California fault that was presumed dead. Had the shaking lasted just a few seconds longer, the Van Norman reservoir would have ruptured and killed as many as 10,000 people in suburban Los Angeles, according to U.S. Geological Survey sources.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of the federal government's willingness to build reservoirs before all the geologic facts are in is the New Melones damsite along Iron Canyon on California's Stanislaus River. Perched in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, New Melones is destined to become the second highest earth-fill dam in the U.S.

In a May 1972 Environmental Impact Statement, the Army Corps of Engineers contended there was little earthquake risk to its \$286 million project: "The project area has experienced little seismic activity in historical times," the statement said.

"The nearest known active fault is the Owens Valley Fault about 70 miles east of the project."

But according to 1974 studies by a San Francisco-based consulting firm, that assessment may be off by at least 68 1/2 miles. While conducting siting tests for a nuclear power plant on the Stanislaus River, Woodward-Clyde Consultants discovered two branches of the active Foothills Fault System in the immediate vicinity of the dam construction site.

The Army Corps of Engineers recently retained Woodward-Clyde to make further studies. The firm, which anticipates completing its new study by mid-1977, says it won't know till then whether New Melones is sitting directly atop a potential major earthquake.

Meanwhile the Corps is continuing construction on the dam. Half the project, which began in 1967, is now complete. "All evidence has shown the faults to be inactive," a Corps spokesman told PNS. "We just want to lay to rest all concerns."

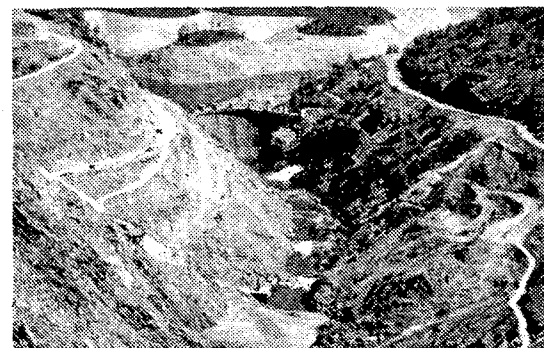
Among geologists familiar with the new Melones project, those concerns include fears of a dam-generated holocaust.

"The billion-dollar damage caused by the [Teton Dam] failure would be minor compared to what a giant New Melones-size dam could do," says one scientist who has examined the problem. "This reservoir holds 12 times as much water as that one. If it burst, tens of thousands could die."

"It's crazy to be building more big dams on (the Foothills Fault) group before we know what the real story is geologically," says another geologist. "You know, earthquake experts like to joke that the best place to look for a fault is underneath the nearest dam."

"I'll tell you one thing," he adds, "I sure am glad I'm not living downstream."

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## FLOTSAM CONT'D

well as a mental act and of actions making words possible as well as the other way around.

I don't understand it all very well, and society still keeps telling me in little ways that I'm a bit of an oddball for not pretending I don't have a physical body, but all the physical and mental signals suggest I'm on the right track.

Among those mental and physical signs is the extraordinary release of tension that heavy exercise brings. One mile out the knots loosen and the mind starts to cruise like a rocket after the initial exertion of blast-off. The earth's atmosphere falls behind with its friction and gravity and your heightened physical sense is followed by your mind shooting along a mystical trajectory. I have had the experience in a meditative or emotional context, I have tried many times to get it with alcohol, but I've never found it happening on demand quite like it can when you are running. One psychiatrist, who has done tests on his patients, has found that jogging cured depression more often than therapy. I believe him.

Lifting is a bit different. There is no steady flow. Instead it is, like they say, like a pump. Short bursts of power propelling waves of energy. But as in running, the body is energized and the mind follows suit, first relaxing then floating freely. I do not know what happens to my mind in the weight room but I know when I leave it seems stronger and more content than it was before. Perhaps it is like a muscle, which grows during the rest following exertion, rather than during exercise itself. Perhaps we overexert our brains and should, like a weightlifter, always give them a day off between workouts.

Then there is the exhilaration of the use of strength. Physical strength has little social value today. There are few urban tasks that require it. A hundred or more years ago it was important for survival, and a factor in achievement. Remember reading in history books about some leader, parenthetically described as "A physically strong man, he . . .?" It went out with Teddy Roosevelt. Even in sport, we tend to honor speed more than strength. But anachronistic appendage though it may be, strength is more satisfying to use than to let lie fallow. Concentrating one's resources towards the single-minded goal of moving an object that was immovable last month offers the possibility not only of catharsis but surprise. You drop the weight in the glow of achievement and amazement, two reactions not all that easy to come by these days.

There are some, I suppose, who would draw a connection between cultivating physical strength and machismo, overaggressiveness or other such characteristics. As far as bodybuilders and weightlifters are concerned, I think this is probably unfair. The ones I have known have rather mild personalities. Perhaps this is because, as Schwarzenegger has suggested, that when you are strong you can afford to be gentle or perhaps it is because many, like myself, entered the sport to overcome personal inadequacies or physical problems, and know in their own way what it is like to be at the bottom.

There is also a common perception of bodybuilding and weightlifting as a highly narcissistic enterprise. But if you step back from this perception you will see that, on a relative scale, it doesn't hold much water. One need only examine Washington, bursting to the brim with powermaniacal politicians, correspondents, bureaucrats and lawyers, to see that bodybuilding is one of the most benign acts of self-indulgence to be found in these parts. Or consider the enormity of the fashion and cosmetic industry which caters to a broad spectrum of the population that would not consider itself narcissistic but which spends ex-

traordinary sums to project an artificial image of health and beauty. I see men come down to the health club and spend more time with their hair blower than they do exercising.

In fact, the popular scepticism about bodybuilding and weightlifting is probably rooted in the profound, and ultimately dangerous, anti-physical bias of our society. We believe ourselves too advanced to be mere physical animals so we downplay the reality of our bodies at every turn, just as we attempted for many years to ignore the fact that the health of a technological civilization depended on the cardiovascular fitness of our energy arteries or the collective muscle and stamina of our communities. We ignored our greater environment — to our peril we learned, and we still believe that we are not dependent upon the ecological system of our bodies.

To be sure, the model that has been presented of the weightlifter has not been all that reassuring. Even "Pumping Iron" perpetuates the image of 58" chests and 22" biceps (to get an idea of how bit that is, measure your thigh) as the norm. But Schwarzenegger and friends are no more typical of amateur bodybuilders than Evel Knievel is representative of weekend trail bikers or Frank Shorter is of the average jogger.

That many find a Mr. Universe grotesque is not surprising given the cultural images of ideal male proportion. Whether it actually is grotesque can not be objectively determined anyway. For example, your daughter may consider Mick Jagger the perfect male form and you may recoil. Similarly, Arnold Schwarzenegger might be all right painted on the Sistine Chapel ceiling but in real life Robert Redford is preferred. And there are tribes that consider the accumulation of a fatty lump on the buttocks a beauty mark for women, whereas I would prefer a tribe of Charlie's Angels. So be it. But if we are to give cultural weight to "the human potential movement" then it must be conceded Schwarzenegger has tapped his human potential to a degree that is extraordinary even by bodybuilding standards. For example, his arms are three inches bigger than the largest biceps of a Mr. America winner in the thirty previous years. What does it prove? What does Arthur Ashe or Hank Aaron prove? What's the point of climbing that damn mountain anyway? Excess is at the heart of achievement in sports, not to mention politics, television ratings and Farrell's "Zoo" concoction. Schwarzenegger is just a typical American overachiever who had to rely on his muscles.

I don't care all that much about excess myself. I prefer proportion. And one of the nice things about weightlifting — or most sports for that matter, is that you can situate yourself anywhere along the spectrum of achievement or excess that your natural abilities and inclinations allow you and still obtain considerable satisfaction. The weekend tennis buff might secretly wish to be as good as Billy Jean King or Jimmy Connors but few would like to go through the single-minded effort and sacrifice necessary to get there even if they had the talent. But this doesn't reduce the number of tennis players. Even if the competition in the neighborhood is too strong, there is still the ultimate Olympic game; that between yourself and the way you played last month or last year. It's got everything but Warner Wolf.

That's true in tennis, golf, running, volleyball or weightlifting. The average male would be lucky to press 100 pounds over his head once. That gargantuan Russian did it with over 500 pounds at the Olympics. That's 400 pounds in which to find your level. The gap between Arnold Schwarzenegger's chest and that of the average American male is 24" — 12" on the upper arm. Plenty of room there. In fact, weightlifters and bodybuilders come in all sizes and shapes. There are the Olympic lifters whose large girths provide a platform from which to lift the huge plates. There's a marathoner who works out at my health club who is 40, short, lean and as strong as most five inches taller than he. Some lifters

lift for shape, some for bulk, some for strength, some for rehabilitation of specific weak joints and muscles and others for general athletic ability. The general improvement in Olympic records in recent years is no small tribute to the efficacy of weightlifting as a training device in all sports, and for women as well as for men. In the sports world, at least, weightlifting is not only respected but considered vital.

I lift for strength, shape, weight control, but most of all, for fun. I tried just sitting at this typewriter, going to meetings and calling people up and asking them Important Questions all day, but it didn't work. I drank too much, ate too much, and found myself losing interest and feeling defeated. My body was crying out "How about me?" When I listened, things straightened out. Down to the health club for flyes, presses, lat pulldowns and curls. The weights stall, then slowly move at my demand. I put them down. A cause won. Now back to the typewriter and the ones still lost.

When "Pumping Iron" came out I didn't know if it would help or hurt. Lifting's status was now in the hands of movie reviewers, mostly, I thought, endomorphic moles whose only contact with light came from the screen and exit signs, who lived on a diet of Cherry Smash, buttered popcorn and ju-ju beans, and who made a whole career of sitting on their butts motionless for long periods. I was pleasantly surprised to find that grudging respect filtered through even the most critical reviews, and especially heartened by the Washington Post's Gary Arnold who compared Schwarzenegger to Fred Astaire and who hailed the arrival of a new physical type of actor — citing Sly Stallone, *Lifeguard*, and Dustin Hoffman in *Marathon Man* and adding that "the moment may have passed, fortunately, when Timothy Bottoms or David Bowie loomed as the Typical Leading Man of the '70s." There seemed hope that perhaps my favorite athletic activity was finally rising from freakdom. I've got my fingers crossed. A noticeable minority of my friends have become much more physically oriented in recent years. Perhaps some others will after they definitely find out they are not getting appointments to the Carter administration. But I suspect it will be some time before we read in Portfolio that Art Buchwald outlifted Rowland Evans at Ethel Kennedy's weekend meet or that Cyrus Vance is now pressing 120 pounds, even though it's really not so absurd when you realize that President Kennedy told lifter Bob Hoffman that he often had read "Strength and Health" and that Bobby Kennedy had had an isometric power rack installed in his house.

But regardless, I plan to keep at it. Lifting and running. In fact, now that I'm approaching forty I'm just getting warmed up, for both activities have a cumulative conditioning effect unlike many sports where one tends to ride on past conditioning as one gets older. Even after I start to slow down and weaken, if I just keep within the averages, for a long time I'll be far ahead of where I was when I began. It's just lucky I got started in sports so late. — SAM SMITH



BY BEING UNEMPLOYED WE ARE SAVING  
OURSELVES FROM A RUINOUS INFLATION."



# flotsam & jetsam

THANKS to Arnold Schwarzenegger, Charles Gaines and George Butler, weightlifting and bodybuilding have gained at least a temporary aura of semi-respectability. The movie Pumping Iron and Schwarzenegger's entry into general stardom, including the stamp of Jackie Onassis's attentions, have created a fad if not a fashion, making it possible, among other things, for me to address the subject without unduly adding to an already ample reputation for eccentricity.

I have been quietly pumping iron for about twenty years. I began weightlifting in college at the end of a long, miserable association with youthful sports that had left me alternately indifferent to and afraid of my body. I learned to ignore it, convincing myself that the vehicle that carried my brain was of no import, that my wits would flourish no matter how rickety or soft their platform. By the end of my sophomore year I had hit 240 pounds of free-form corpulence. Some of my friends called me "Fat Jolly Sam" ("Fat Jolly" for short) and with my late night fourth meal of a roast beef sandwich (with Russian dressing) and a milkshake before or after impressive rounds of beer, and with little attention to either sleep or exercise, I did nothing to disappoint them.

I viewed exertion like French. One of the advantages of going to college was not having to take French anymore. Another was not have to exercise.

Arriving at this point was not difficult in mid-fifties America. Nor is it today. Our school sports programs remain skewed towards those who need little encouragement to be fit or active. Those who lack skill or desire find themselves falling farther and farther behind those who early in life have demonstrated some athletic ability until the system simply throws up its hands and says, as it does in academic matters of slum children, "they are uneducable."

If one is dubbed a "bright student" the neglect is magnified, for who needs to run, hit or throw if one has a brain? The rewards, enthusiasm and assistance are in the classroom, so you go where the appreciation is and learn to view athletics as an intellectual rather than a physical test with the examination consisting of such questions as:

- What is the least amount of time I need expose my flaccid spastic form to my peers and still get dressed?

- Which position in soccer is least likely to produce a ball hurtling my way? And if it comes, which position is least likely to demonstrate to everyone my total lack of skill? (I opted for goalie since my size gave me some advantage, I could touch the ball with any part of my body and usually did, I didn't have to run much, and since everyone else's mind was on scoring, my failures were minimized by the other players' chagrin at having permitted the ball to arrive so far back in the first place.)

- Where does one stand so you get marked for attendance but are then forgotten by the coach?

- What novel excuse can you come up with to avoid having to go out on that grizzly, mine-filled field at all?

- How does one look nonchalant when teams are being chosen and you are the last one to be picked? Do you move towards the team that had the bad luck to choose you before or after the captain says your name with disgusted resignation?

As far back as I can remember I was that last kid. The one they sent out to right field and then moved centerfield sharply over your way. When a stray ball would stream towards me, it came as a bullet. I could not catch it; I didn't even want to catch it yet I had to try to act in a way that would conceal my feelings, if not my lack of coordination.

Winter sports were not so bad. Clearly incapable of playing basketball and with no one hinting the possibility that I might have been trained into a decent wrestler, I was assigned to calisthenics squad with the other eggheads, goof-offs and fatsos. Neither we nor our instructors took this business seriously. We went through the motions and soon were safely back in class.

The closest I came to enjoying sports in school -- I liked soccer but wasn't proficient enough to enjoy it -- was in the spring. Our track team was not all that good and the nature of track and field events suited my situation. What humiliation there was was mercifully brief. At the shotput I was sufficiently skillful to avoid being noticed. And most of the time you just stood around, which was my idea of the ideal sport.

The shotput should have been a clue that there was, even in me, some untapped physical potential, but neither I nor my coaches caught it. It wasn't important. After all I was meant to write, think and get good grades.

I went to college determined to put the nightmare of athletics behind me. I made the sailing team; that was sport enough for me.

In the first two years of college I gained fifty-five pounds and with it a still greater aversion to physical activity. I even gave up sailing. Then a doctor scared me. Tentatively, cautiously, I began visiting the gym and lifting weights. There was so much else going on and I had so little hope of any shape other than that of an humanoid Goodyear blimp that I did not take it too seriously at first. But even the token effort helped. The pounds began to disappear as quietly and inexplicably as they had arrived and within one year after college I was back down to 190.

It was, in my own view, an amazing achievement, perhaps the most impressive thing I had been able to accomplish in my first couple of decades, but it was not on my resume nor did I dare mention it too often, for while it was acceptable to boast of a promotion, new job, girlfriends or psychological traumas, it was not fashionable to speak of one's body, even if you had just rescued it from a near certain cliff job.

I kept on lifting anyway. Instead of avoiding exercise surreptitiously, as I had before, I now partook of it the same way, for just as society rewarded the high school athlete, it was indifferent or even somewhat critical of the post-college jock, except for such socially approved endeavors as tennis.

Then, while serving in the Coast Guard, President Kennedy declared physical fitness a Good Thing. The military snapped to, and out at the St. Louis headquarters of the Second Coast Guard District they looked around for a physical fitness officer and settled on the kid from right field. For the first time in my life, three years out of college, I was actually helping someone else learn how to do something physical because I was better. Putting creaking commanders and beer-bellied petty officers through those sessions, I would sometimes grin at the thought of what my fellow fatsos, eggheads and goof-offs from high school would think if they could see me now.

Returning to Washington and writing

after the Coast Guard, I dove into a pleasant marriage and a tumultuous political era, neither designed to maintain one's condition. By the end of the sixties I had put on 40 pounds again. I decided to try to beat my metabolism into submission one more time before middle age. I began working out more seriously and when I hit 35, started running for the first time, something I had decided back on the high school track was a psychological impossibility for me for lengths greater than 100 yards. The weight dropped again, although far more slowly than before, and my heart beat more leisurely. And sometime between then and now I decided that if I were not to have to go through all this again -- would I have the will? -- I would have to regard myself as a protoplasmic junkie, that because of my pituitary gland or other internal mystery, inactivity acted upon my body like a tire pump and that I would have to choose between a high level of conditioning or simply bloating up. I was no more secure than the abstaining alcoholic. Only premeditated remission from corpulence and sloth would work.

So there you have it. A nice tidy justification for weightlifting and running down Connecticut Avenue with a backpack instead of driving with my attache case stowed next to me or an occasional game of tennis. Reasonable and prudent. Only there is one thing I haven't told you. I like it.

You don't push heavy weights around for twenty years or run in twenty degree weather when you're almost forty just because it's good for you. Or at least I don't. It is true that by the time you are forty, weight control can add five years on the average to your life so if you figure it out you'll find that even if you were to exercise two hours every day you'd still end up with more time to do what you want to do then if you had let yourself age and fatten normally. It's true that muscles require far more calories at rest than does fat, and that people tend to lose muscle as they grow older. Take the case of Magnum Levy, a physiologist who calculated that at age 76 he used 360 less calories a day at rest than he did at 26. He'd have to walk 6 miles a day to burn off those calories. It is true that running has all sorts of cardiovascular benefits and that, contrary to many sports, running and weightlifting are two activities that can be engaged in well into one's years with any diminution in strength and speed still leaving you far ahead of the general populace years younger. And it is also true, as the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports noted, "that 50 million adult Americans never exercise; that youth fitness test scores have not improved since 1965; that the number and quality of school physical education programs are declining; that the rejection rate for volunteers for military service is far too high, and that degenerative diseases associated with obesity and physical inactivity have reached the epidemic stage."

All that's true, but I wouldn't keep pumping iron or running on the basis of that alone. Fortunately there are other factors. I like being muscular and in good shape. I like pressing against stubborn objects, political or iron. I like sweating and tiring myself out at a physical activity. I like trying to do more than I could do last week. I like feeling a physical being rather than just a bipedal brain.

I used to think of my brain as the boss of my body but now I view my body as more a collective with the various parts working, hopefully, as a happy commune. I no longer view exercise as time out from the important things. I like to think of writing as a physical as

(Please turn to page 19)